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SELECTIONS

FROM THE

LETTERS, DESPATCHES, AND OTHER STATE PAPERS

PRESERVED IN THE

BOMBAY SECRETARIAT.

MARÁTHA SERIES,

VOL. I., PART I.

EDITED BY
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PREFACE.

The object of these volumes is to trace by means of the records deposited in the Bombay Secretariat the history of the Maráthás from their founder Shiváji, who welded a few tribes into a great nation, to their defeat by the matchless genius of Wellington. From Arras to Assaye the story is told by the letters and narratives of the chief actors. These have been printed exactly as they are entered in the Secret Diaries. The only alteration has been in the spelling of the Native words. Great difficulty has been experienced in identifying the names of places and persons. Thus the name of Suvarndurg is written in the Diaries as Severmook, and the name of Samsher Bahádur, half brother of the Peshwa Nána, as Sumlia Prahaunder. Some of the papers regarding the First Marátha War have already appeared in print in a large folio printed by order of the House of Commons in 1806. They are now printed again both for the sake of the continuity of the narrative of the present series and because the folio is accessible to very few persons. It was also found on comparing the printed papers with the Records, that they were full of errors and inaccuracies, and in many cases owing to the way Native names were transcribed, unintelligible.

After the papers relating to the Second Marátha War will be found thirty-two letters written by the Marquess Wellesley when Earl of Mornington. They were found among a bundle of old letters in the Record Office. These letters have been carefully collated with Mr. Martin's "Despatches, Minutes and Correspondence of the Marquess Wellesley," and Mr. Sidney Owen's "Selection from the Despatches, Treaties, and other papers of the Marquess Wellesley", and those which have not been printed are now given. The majority of the letters were written to Colonel Palmer and the Peshwa. One letter, though not dealing with Marátha affairs, is included for the importance and interest of the subject discussed. The Marquess Wellesley and his Council discuss the advantage to be gained by having an establishment at the port of Aden, and come to the conclusion that "On the whole we are perfectly satisfied that the proposed measure is in no respect eligible. We therefore direct that the overture of the Sultán of Aden be declined in as conciliating terms as possible, and that the detachment under the command of Lieutenent-Colonel Murray be withdrawn from Aden with the least possible delay. It appearing from concurrent accounts that Perim, joined to some positive discouragements of a very serious nature, does not, in point of local situation, possess the advantages which were originally expected from it, we do not think it proper that it should again be occupied by British forces" (p. 640).

After the letters of the Marquess Wellesley follow a few letters written by the Duke of Wellington when he was Colonel Wellesley and was in chief command of the newly acquired Mysore territory. In the Bombay records there are a large number of letters written by the Duke, but the majority of them have been printed in the despatches edited by Colonel Gurwood. Those given in this volume are now printed for the first time. A vast number of bundles of letters remain to be examined, and it is quite possible that among them there are some more written by the Duke of Wellington. The first letter, written from Seringpatam, is dated 13th March 1800, and is addressed to the Secretary of the Government of Bombay. It announces that the troops in Kánara and Malabár have been directed to put themselves under the Duke's command. "As I have never had the honor of serving under the orders of the Government of Bombay I am ignorant of the standing rules and regulations of their service, of the channels of

communication pointed out for the military, and of other matters in which I am desirous of being correct, and I shall be obliged to you if you will furnish me with such information as it may be in your power to afford." In all the letters of the Duke the conciliatory tone which he always adopts to the civil authorities is very striking. He ordered some troops to be moved from Malabár in order to employ them on active service. The gentlemen of the Malabár Commission objected to their removal, and he forwards their letter to the Bombay Government with the following remark. "In the short time that I have had the command of the troops, I have had an opportunity of showing my readiness to perform that part of my duty, *viz.*, to attend as much as possible to the requisition of the civil power. If then it should be decided that I was wrong in drawing the troops from Malabár, and that my arrangements were faulty, I hope that the error will be attributed to one of judgment and not to an unworthy desire to do that which should be displeasing to the Commissioners." He also writes to the Commissioner of Malabár, "An arrangement has been made of the military force in Malabár which I am concerned to observe is not satisfactory to the gentlemen of the Commission: but it is the best thing I can devise in these difficult times, and I hope I shall have the credit with the Bombay Government and the Commander-in-Chief for having adopted it only as a measure of necessity. This I might likewise claim from the gentlemen of the Commission". At page 609 is printed a facsimile of the letter written by the Duke of Wellington announcing to the Bombay Government the victory of Assaye which made us masters of India.

After the Duke of Wellington's letters will be found an interesting historical account of the illustrious Marátha families who helped to increase the power and dominion of their country. A few papers on contemporaneous subjects of curiosity and interest are printed in the appendix. Among them may be found two letters written by Tipu and a detailed account of the state of his army immediately before the war which proved fatal to him. The volume closes with an extract from a Persian manuscript entitled "Memoranda and Recent Anecdotes of the Southern Courts of Hindustán by a Musalmán Observer in the year 1195-96 Hijri, that is A.D. 1781-82." The paper is of value on account of its giving a Mahomedan view of the Marátha Empire.

In order to make the Selections more intelligible to the general reader I have thought it advisable to prefix to them a short historical introduction. In the introduction will be found a letter written by Lord Clive which has never been printed before, an interesting memorial signed by the leading members of the Native community in the year 1739, offering to subscribe thirty thousand rupees to repair the defences of the town of Bombay, and a quaint letter from Lieutenant Pruen describing a gallant naval action.

It affords me much pleasure to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered me in the preparation of these volumes by Mr. Purushottam Bálkrishna Joshi, whose services were placed at my disposal by Government.

G. W. FORREST.

Bombay, August 1885.

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INTRODUCTION.

The first paper in these Selections is a translation of a Memoir of Shiváji, the founder of the Marátha Empire. Mr. Waring in his History of the Maráthás informs us that he derived his information regarding Shiváji from four Marátha histories of the life of Shiváji and his son Sambháji, and he adds : " One is kept at Ráiri, the ancient capital of Shiváji's empire, and is more authentic than the others." In the last paragraph of the Memoir, published for the first time in this volume, will be found the following remark : "This account of Sháháji and Shiváji was in the fort of Ráigad. Mánko Bhimráv, Kulkarni of the village of Rir, by desire of Náikji Kadam, Pátil of the village of Kámri, copied it from the Daftarkhána in that fort." Mr. Waring in his appendix proves in the most careful and elaborate manner that Ráiri and Ráigad are the same place. He also shows that Mr. Orme was incorrect in placing Ráiri fifty miles north and by west from Poona. " Lieutenant, Goodfellow," he writes, " of the Bombay Engineers, established on the spot that Ráigad to this day is called Ráheri or Ráiri, and that instead of being north-west of Poona it is situated thirty-eight miles west and forty-two south from Poona." Mr. Grant Duff in his history also speaks of Ráigad as Ráiri. There is besides internal evidence to show that the life of Shiváji, which Mr. Waring says was deposited in Ráiri and which he considered to be the most authentic life of the great Marátha Captain, must be the same as the one given in the present volume. Mr. Waring remarks : " The history of Shiváji, deposited at Ráiri, says that he escaped to the house of a potter, a man of the Deccan, and that he continued there a month, and that he afterwards travelled by Mutra, Allahabad, Benáres and Gaya." In the present Memoir we are told that Shiváji remained concealed in the potter's house a whole month and that he afterwards visited Allahabad, Benáres and Gaya, and went through the usual ceremonies performed by pilgrims at those places."

The life of Shiváji is but a small stream of historic record, but it is interesting on account of the quaint matter-of-fact manner in which the adventures of the man who welded a few tribes into a great nation is told. In this respect it presents a striking contrast to the history of the Persian observer, given at the end of the volume. The Marátha biographer indulges neither in speculations nor comments, but relates his story in the same simple narrative form which we find in the Bible. The father goes to see his successful son, and we are told that, " when he approached that place Shiváji went with his whole army to meet him and received him with all possible honours. He walked on foot alongside of Sháháji's palanquin ten miles till he reached the town." The meeting between husband and wife is related in the same primitive fashion. " Sháháji went immediately to see Jijáwa, and they both felt extreme pleasure at meeting again after so long an absence." The account of the attack on Sháhiste Khán, when he was residing in Poona, materially differs from that given by Grant Duff in his history ; and in no other account do we find any mention of the Sanskrit letter which Sháhiste sent to Shiváji. The letter was to the following effect : " That like a monkey he was an inhabitant of the hills, and trusting to the protection of his forts he conducted himself in a most improper way." The answer was clever. " It is true that I am like a monkey and that you are like Rája Indra, but I am like those monkeys that destroyed

Rávan and got possession of Ceylon, and I will make your retreat difficult." The life closes with a most remarkable prophesy; for like Arthur or Barbarossa, Shiváji's reappearance in some supreme moment of his country's fortune has been confidently expected by the Maráthás and foretold in all accounts of the national hero. "When Shiváji went to take his share of Chundi Chunjávar (Tanjore) in the year of Shálivahán 1595, the goddess Bhaváni came into his body and remained there five hours, during which time she gave him a view of future events, *viz.*, that all his dominions would fall into the hands of people with red faces; that Sambháji would be taken prisoner by the Mogals; that Rája Rám would succeed him on the masnad; that Shiváji would, in the course of time, come into the world again under a new form and extend his dominions to Delhi, and that dominion would remain in the Bhonsla family for twenty-seven generations."

On the death of Shiváji his son inherited his father's vast possessions, but none of his father's greatness. Having destroyed the great monarchies of Bijápur and Golconda, Aurangzeb determined to crush his old foes, the Maráthás. The son of Shiváji fell a prisoner into his hands, and was put to death with cruel torture. Sátára was captured, nearly all the Marátha strongholds were seized, but the Maráthás were neither crushed nor subdued. The very year before the death of the great Mogal Emperor his armies sustained a signal defeat at their hands and he himself narrowly escaped being made a prisoner. On the death of Aurangzeb, Sháhu Rája, the grandson of Shiváji, was released, but the young man was not fit to wield a sceptre. He allowed his state affairs to be managed by his chief minister or Peshwa, which literally means he who precedes. In 1714 Báláji Vishvanáth, a Bráhman, raised himself from an inferior position in the state to the high office of Premier. By degrees he gained the complete confidence of Sháhu and persuaded him to divest himself of all the cares of government and resign them to him. In course of time Sháhu even went so far as to invest Báláji with all the ensigns of authority. Every order was issued directly from the Peshwa, who was further styled by the Rája Pandit Pradhán or Chief of the Pandits. This form of Government continued to the day of the last Peshwa.

On the death of a Peshwa his successor was bound to go to Sátára to be formally invested with the *sirpáv* or robe of office. Báláji however caused the office to be made hereditary in his family and he was succeeded by Bájiráv, his eldest son, an able man and thorough soldier, who greatly extended the Marátha dominion. His father had deprived Sháhu of power; he deprived him of liberty. The descendant of the great Shiváji was made a State prisoner and became the mere name and image of authority in the Marátha Empire.

The conquests of the brother of Bájiráv first turned the attention of the President and Council at Bombay towards the Maráthás. The marauding savages, as they called them, had descended from their mountains on the rich fields of the Konkan, and had begun to attack with success fortresses manned by the countrymen of the great Albuquerque. The bounds of the empire formed by his genius were being gradually curtailed by the savage hill-men of the Gháts. News came with painful frequency of the Maráthás having captured another Portuguese fort and brought under their yoke another Portuguese province. The English factors began to tremble for their magazines. They wrote to their friends at Bengal: "The Portuguese territories adjacent to Bombay have been suddenly invaded by the Maráthás, a people subject to the Som Rája, who have prosecuted their attempts so successfully as to render even our Hon'ble Masters' island in danger." The apprehension of the English was increased when the Maráthás besieged Thána and took it by assault, though it was defended with desperate valour by the Portuguese garrison. It was now expected that Bombay would be the next object of attack. John Pereira Pinto, Captain, Commandant of Bassein and Provisional

Governor of the North, wrote: "I am likewise, from a regard to our common interest, to tell you that the Maráthás have more at heart the conquest of your island than they had that of ours which now commands it and which they invaded under the colour of a peace equal to that you keep up with them now, both from the infidelity natural to that nation and from the certainty of tho great riches and treasure they may get upon it." He further adds: "I hold it for indubitable that the gentlemen belonging to the Government of your island cannot but be sensible that you must be ruined with us if the Maráthás gain an establishment on the island of Sálsette, and that they only keep peace with you for a present conveniency, not to have at the same time two enemys on their back." The Portuguese commanders not only reproach the English for not making common cause against "the idolators and the common enemys to all European nations;" but for the assistance which they had lent them: "We knew for a certain," he writes, "that your island is continually furnishing the Maráthás with powder and ball; for in the winter season from the artillery with which the Maráthás fired against the town the balls were all hammered, but since the spring they are cast and with English marks. When our deceased General Pedro d'Mello went to attack the fort Dos Reys, I know that from your island there went three gunners to Thána, and perhaps their expertness was the rod that caused our smart, and afterwards under a pretence that they were deserters, they were returned, the Maráthás not yielding to send back others that were really deserters now in Thána, but only those who were sent over on purpose."

Neither the eloquence nor the taunt of the Portuguese Commander were of much avail. The President declared his intention of remaining neutral, but he sent fifty men with some ammunition to assist in the defence of Bándora. These were withdrawn when the Marátha General declared his intention of attacking the place. The fortifications were on too great a scale for a small force to protect, and an order was issued to dismantle them and blow up all the buildings at Bándora. The superior of the Jesuit College resisted the order to the utmost. In the proceedings of the 20th February 1739 we read: "The President likewise communicates to the Board two letters from John de Souza Ferras, Commandant of Sálsette, remonstrating the obstruction he meets with from the superiors of Bándora in completing the works for the entire demolition of that place, threatening him with the worst of consequences if he goes on with them, the President himself having before received a sort of protest against the same from the superior aforesaid: upon which it is remarked that the power and influence of the Society is so great that this Commandant dare not execute the orders given him by the General of the North: and that to leave the College standing may be of great disservice to this island, affording the Maráthás a convenient protreat, or place of arms, whence they may greatly incommode us. That therefore since the evident benefit it is of to both nations to destroy the place entirely cannot procure their consent, an expedient be tried to bring the Padres to reason by refusing the protection of this Government for their persons and effects which they may keep at their College and defend against the Maráthás, or upon abandoning it, leave us at liberty to pursue our measures for the safety of our frontier without engaging us in a controversy with the Portuguese Government. And the Secretary is ordered to repair to Bándora to enforce and explain our sentiments of the Padres' conduct as well as to excite John de Souza Ferras to the performance of his orders in full."

The Maráthás had now begun the siege of Bassein and the Commander wrote frequent letters, charged with dignity and pathos, asking for succour; the garrison were on the verge of starvation, could not some rice be sent to them? But none could be spared, as owing to the rigid guard kept on the ports by the Maráthás the English were themselves threatened with scarcity. Then came a letter from Caetano de Souza, dated the 1st March 1739, which acquaints

the President with his succeeding to the command of the town by the death of John Xavier Pinto; killed by a musket shot in the throat ; "that the Maráthás have carried on mines, covered ways and other approaches to the very foundation of the wall, their batteries being very near the town ; that they throw large stones into the place from mortars. Notwithstanding all which he hopes to preserve the town from falling into the enemy's hands, having made all the necessary preparations and dispositions to disappoint the effects of their mines or sap ; that the continual fire they have been driven to has diminished their ammunition insomuch that without our assistance to that point the town would be in the greatest danger, and therefore he makes earnest suit for a supply of four hundred barrels of powder and five thousand shot of different sizes." At the request of the Captain of the North the opinion of "our Engineer Mr. John Brown and Bombardier Mr. Joseph Smith are taken with regard to the Maráthás' project of mining, but their reply was of no great professional value. They came to the conclusion that as the Maráthá works "must be superficial, the best way to annoy them is by sally or raining shells plentifully on them." It was also argreed to supply the Portuguese with two hundred barrels of powder and four thousand shots of the requisite size. The small aid was soon exhausted. The President is again implored to lend "this city in the name of all its inhabitants that have estates, or to the King my master on the mortgage of his royal domain one hundred thousand xeraphins for the payment of his troops. With the greatest security your Honour can desire even to have your payment secured in Portugal should there for our sins be no lands or revenue left in these parts to pay you out of." The Commander adds : "I have no resource left to apply to, having already a long time melted down the church plate to carry on the expense of the war." The President and Council express sympathy for the unfortunate state of the Portuguese ; but it is resolved that "in respect to the restrictions we are under we cannot hazard such a sum of money as it is requested and is agreed, therefore, that the President write a handsome excuse for the present, deferring a definitive answer till the arrival of a ship from Great Britain, which is daily expected." Soon afterwards we again find that the President communicates to the Board the pressing instances he has received in two letters from the Viceroy to assist Bassein and Chaul (at least the former) with money and munitions of war. The latter request is granted, but with regard to the former "it is unanimously agreed that we have not authority sufficient from our Hon'ble Masters to hazard any loan but at the risk of our own fortunes as may be evident from the strict tenor of their orders." However the danger now became so imminent that Bassein would be taken and "the troops of these Maráthás are so near our island" that "even at the hazard of our own private fortune in case of the same being disavowed by our employers," it was resolved "that a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand rupees be advanced the Portuguese, taking such security as may be got for repayment of the same on the Hon'ble Company's account." The Commander in answer offers as security not only a small parcel of plate belonging to the churches, but also "some pieces of brass ordnance of large calibre, either in payment or pawn for the debts. Having this consideration that it is most becoming my nation that it should be known to the world how, for the preservation of their King's city, it was stripped of its artillery, the principal instruments of its defence, whilst they put their trust more on their personal valour, in their constant fidelity and zeal than on the extraordinary force or hardness of metal ; so that if your Excellency will please to accept of this pledge, on advice from your Excellency I will send the pieces of ordnance that may be necessary to pay the debts incurred." Neither zeal nor personal valour could however save the doomed city ; the garrison worn out by want of food and constant fighting determined, after eight hundred of their officers and men had been slain, to capitulate. The terms were honourable both to the victors and conquered. The garrison were to march out with all the honours of war.

Those of the people who wished to leave were allowed free egress with all their property for eight days, and those who desired to stay were permitted to worship God according to the forms of their own religion.

The capture of Bassein warned the English to guard themselves to meet a like peril. The President (10th May 1739) represented to the Board that in his opinion the boats now employed on the river may easily, by means of batteries, be compelled to retire and the enemy might, on being fully determined, get on the island. He also pointed out that the town wall was no more than eleven feet in height reckoning up to the cordon, and it seems unfit for the resistance of batteries, which is confirmed by the opinion of the Engineer. Two months afterwards "the President remarks to the Board that our present situation admits of no longer delays in coming to some resolution for or against the carrying on a ditch round the town wall. That the principal merchants of the place, convinced of the necessity of putting the town thereby in some state of defence, have subscribed the sum of thirty thousand rupees towards the expense of this work, as may appear by their hands set to an instrument now laid before the Board as entered at this consultation, and which is as much as can be expected from that body considering the too declined state of trade." The following is the instrument to which the President refers :—

"Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—The great happiness we enjoy under the English Government in a perfect security of our property and the free exercise of our respective ways of worship leads us to be very desirous of continuing the same advantages to our posterity; and as a formidable power of the Maráthás has subdued the neighbouring country and the invasion of this island is threatened, we cannot, on the present occasion, avoid being anxious that such a defence may be ordered as may tend to disappoint their evil designs; and as the town wall was, we apprehend, intended as a security to the merchants that were admitted to the protection of this Government, for the erecting of which we have long contributed, notwithstanding which we are apprised it is not yet in a condition to resist the neighbouring power; and seeing we have no other place of retreat to in case of an invasion, we humbly request that the said wall may be fortified with a ditch and such other additions made to it as may on an emergency secure our effects and families, and towards the defraying the expense of the same we, the merchants residing here and whose names are hereunto subscribed, beg leave to propose that a duty of one per cent. may be laid and collected until the amount of thirty thousand rupees be raised, which is as much as we can offer, considering the present decay of trade and the want of substantial merchants.—Moody Jeejee Jamsetjee, Ambaidas Fakirdas, Rupjee Dhanjee, Framjee Rustomjee, Kenpondas Ramdas, Dhanjee Gopal, Lakhmichand Govindas, Bomanjee Jedah, Munchurjee Bomonjee for Bomonjee Rustomjee, Banajee Limjee, Soissongjee Banapore Bansall, Ramchandrajee Bansall, Crapondas Saudas, Nagardas Lolljee, Ally Bavoot Moorman, Mamud Bava Murgiva Moorman, Clowjee Husson Moorman, Saiboo Pondia Moorman, Saiboo Tuckee Husor, Adojee Purvoe, Rankoji Purvoe, Govindajee Raghunath, Ramjee Purvoe, Souz Daboy, Sanura Sinay, Vissu Sinay, Bickoo Sinay, Byroo Sinay, Muchansett Padamsett, Sewjee Dharamsett, Ramajee Gumbasett, Moropant Vissajee."

Besides strengthening the fortifications of the town it was considered prudent by the President to send a letter to the Sháhu Raja "as a proper step and introduction towards obtaining a friendly correspondence with that Court, which appears hitherto to have been entirely neglected." And the Board unanimously agreeing to this proposal, the President remarks that it will be necessary to accompany the letter with a few presents at a moderate expense, such as looking-glasses and other Europe curiosities as may be procured in the place. Captain Gordon was chosen to be the envoy as he knew the "manners and humours of the people." As it was feared that an attempt to negotiate directly with the descendant of Shiváji might give offence to the Peshwa it was agreed likewise "that as Bassein is reduced it will be highly proper to send a letter of compliment to Chimnáji with a small present in the Eastern manner, to consist of six yards of red velvet, six yards of green, and six yards of cloth." The presents were sent by the hands of a native, but Chimnáji desired by letter 'that Captain Inchbird

should be sent to him to confer more particularly about the means of settling a good harmony and understanding with the Government. Captain Gordon in his letter of instruction was told to gain some information and insight into the Government interests and designs at Sháhu Rája's Court, and he was to discover who were Bájiráv's enemies at that Court and how much they were to be depended upon. "It will not be amiss," the Board writes, "if you see a proper occasion and opening to instill a jealousy of his ambition and growing power which must be much increased by the accession of these conquests from the Portuguese and consequently it must be high time to check or put a stop to them." The envoy however was to be "careful to guard against making him an enemy lest he might be excited to aim at doing us ill office." Mr. Gordon left Bombay on the 12th May and on the 13th arrived at Dunda Rájápur, being civilly received by the Siddhi. His letter gives a graphic description of the Deccan a century ago. "On the 20th" he writes, "mounted the hills which were very difficult to ascend. The 22nd entered a fine country well peopled." On the 1st June he reached a small ruinous town, a mile from Myrah, which was then held by the Mogals and which Sháhu Rája was besieging. On the 3rd he had an interview with the Rája, who asked him "how far Bombay lay from Bassein, how broad the river which parted us and if passable without boats, if we had quitted Bandora, if Bombay was walled and whether it had a ditch or river, and if we had any other fort within the town, to which we gave proper replies." Sháhu also put the startling question whether "dread of the Maráthás had not occasioned the visit", to which answer was given that "friendship alone moved us." A few days afterwards the envoy had another audience with the Rája "in a mean place he had erected with his own hands for his present convenience during the siege. He was very gracious to us, and seemed delighted with the birds that made a part of our present, expressing a willingness to do us good offices." Captain Gordon, however, soon discovered that the Rája's good offices were not of much use, for "Bájiráv is so powerful that he makes small account of the Rája." During their stay in camp news came from Delhi that Nádirsháh, who had plundered the Imperial City, "seemed disposed to march against the Maráthás." "On which the Rája with much vehemence plucked off his turband (being a mark of great concern) saying, will Bassein and all our new acquisitions make amends for twenty-two thousand brave men lost there?" We are however afterwards informed that "the return of Nádirsháh is confirmed, and a report seems current that the Maráthás will proceed for seizing Delhi." On the 25th the Mission were allowed to take their leave, the Rája "desiring his friend, the Governor of Bombay, would not omit to send him eight Guinea hens, a pair of Turkeys, some Bussora pigeons, a little mummy, and any kind of curious birds." The envoy returned by way of Poona, and he writes: "That place seems well built and abounds with people and is the chief residence of Bájiráv, who has a great extent of country, to appearance more fertile and valuable than any other I had passed through. I visited the foundery where I saw many cohorn and bomb shells, said to have been cast there, and a form of a thirteen-inch mortar—I was told they make such with great ease—and have learnt the art of running iron for making shot." The Mission arrived safe at Bombay after an absence of two months.

The mission of Inchbird proved a greater success even than that of Gordon. He visited the victorious Chimnáji at Bassein and records what took place in a letter, dated 27th June 1739. From the first question he suspected "they were bringing a demand of money upon the anvil." He however plainly told them that "the Company would sooner see the Island of Bombay sunk under water than they could or would comply with any such request." The Maráthás complained bitterly of the aid supplied from time to time to the Portuguese, which had cost them much trouble; but the envoy consoled them by saying that "as they now were

in the same capacity they might expect and experience the same friendship from us upon occasions." They declared that they hoped soon to conquer Daman and Chaul and have a strong fleet at sea. The envoy adroitly remarked, the fleet might be profitably employed in putting down the cruisers who levied black mail along the sea-coast and gave them a sound lecture on the advantages of free trade. He told them "that theirs was a good country, and that it entirely lay within their own breasts to make themselves happy and considerable in it by encouraging trade, by making the duties and taxes to be imposed upon it light and easy to the fair trader, and granting foreign merchants their protection and free navigation at sea at an easy rate, which was the true policy of all great minds who proposed to render themselves considerable in the world." Bájiráv's people allowed that sending an embassy to Sháhu Rája was a piece of good policy, but "they greatly resented your not consulting them in it first." After considerable trouble and the exercise of great skill and tact Inchbird succeeded in arranging the terms of a treaty, dated the 12th July 1739, which was ratified at Bombay. This was the first treaty made with the Maráthás. It was principally of a commercial nature, and by it the Peshwa conceded to the English free trade in his dominions.

A year after the conclusion of the treaty Bájiráv died. By his wisdom and firmness he established in his family the throne he had usurped. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Báláji Bájiráv, more generally known by the appellation of Nána. During his reign an agreement was made to reduce the power of the pirate chief Ángria. The founder of the family was Kánoji Ángria, who is said to have got his name Ángria from Ángarvádi, a village near Harnai in Ratnágiri. In 1698 he was appointed Admiral of the Marátha fleet, and proved himself a brave and daring commander. His ships crept along the coast, plundering every vessel and sailing up every ford to sack every undefended town. Shiváji had fortified every creek with a fort, and these fell into the hands of Kánoji, who became the founder of a piratical empire, which extended from Goa to Bombay. The fleets of the Ángrias consisted of fast sailing vessels of small burden and rowing boats of forty or fifty oars and crowded with daring and desperate men. From the wik or creek in which their fleet lay the wikings or creekmen pounced upon their prey. When they drew near they gathered astern of their victim and fired into her rigging until they succeeded in disabling her, the rowing boats then closed with her, and the crew sword in hand boarded her from all sides. A heavy merchant vessel lay completely at the mercy of the pirates, and the Company had to spend a large sum annually in protecting their growing trade. At length in 1755 the Bombay Government determind, in alliance with the Peshwa, to make a vigorous attempt to crush the pirates. On the 22nd March Commodore James sailed from Bombay with a small squadron, consisting of his flag-ship the *Protector*, the *Bombay*, twenty-eight guns, the *Swallow*, sixteen guns, and the *Triumph* and *Viper*, bomb vessels. He was found at Chaul by the Marátha fleet, consisting of seven grabs and sixty gallivats, having on board ten thousand soldiers. It was intended that the Marátha army should besiege the forts of the enemy and the English fleet blockade the harbours. Commodore James was not to lend any of his people, except a few of the train "which you may lend them to point their cannon." Captain James, both in his letter to the Board and in his diary, gives a graphic account of Suvarndurg. "Suvarndurg, the golden fortress, is built on a low irregular island situated about a quarter mile from the mainland. The fortifications are cut out of the solid rock, here and there supplemented by blocks of large red stones of near four feet square, so hard that many of our shot split by striking against them." Opposite the island commanding the narrow channel was Fort Gova, called by James Fort Goa, and on a peninsula of land joined to it Fattedurg and Connoidurg. Suvarndurg, James informs us, had fifty guns, Fort Goa about forty-four, and the two others twenty guns each. On the 2nd April James opened fire on Suvarndurg from the sea-

shore but "found the walls too thick and solid to beat down." He asked the Marátha commander for the loan of 800 or 1,000 of his people to enter the fort by storm, "but could not prevail on him." Next morning James discerned that the water was deep enough for him to go further in and bombard both Fort Gova and Suvarndurg. "They fired pretty briskly upon us from the outer and inner forts," he writes, "but by returning the compliment of the former with the lower deck, and of the latter with the upper deck guns, two or three at a time, and by that means keeping an incessant fire upon them, they became very silent in three hours and afterwards fired a shot only now and then." A shell blew up the magazine and a general conflagration ensued. Next morning James renewed the bombardment, and "at 10 three of the forts struck their colours, on which sent Lieutenant Young on shore with English flags, which were hoisted, man'd ships, and gave three cheers." On landing James discovered that the Governor of Fort Gova and some of his followers had escaped to Suvarndurg and "was resolved to maintain it some time in hopes of receiving succour from Dábul. He therefore next day opend fire on it from the ships and shore and "landed a number of people under cover of it, who cut and broke open the wicket of the door and entered without much opposition." Thus, as Orme remarks, Commodore James by his determination and pluck "destroyed the timorous prejudices which had for twenty years been entertained of the impracticability of reducing any of Ángria's fortified harbours." After the fall of Suvarndurg James proceeded to Bánkot, which surrendered at the first summons, and was handed over to the Maráthás to keep for the English. On his return the English Commodore, according to agreement, made over Suvarndurg to the Maráthás and in October we took possession of Bánkot and changed its name to Fort Victoria. Commodore James returned to Bombay on the 27th April 1775, but the home Board having had pressing letters from Nána and his generals that he should assist them in reducing Ratnágiri, they reluctantly consented to send him there. In a letter to the Hon'ble Company we are told, "on our vessels' arrival at Ratnágiri they flung a few shells into the place, but the swell tumbling in on the approach of the monsoon made it impracticable to direct the shells with any hopes of success, and the time being elapsed to which we had limited the Commodore's stay to the southward, he returned again and imported the 18th May."

Tulája Ángria, after the capture of Suvarndurg, took refuge in the stronghold of Gheria, built on a craggy promontory, almost surrounded by the ocean, and moored his ships under the shelter of its walls. After the monsoon the naval and military strength of Bombay was increased by the arrival of Admiral Watson with the royal squadron, and of Colonel Robert Clive with a large detachment of the King's troops from England. The troops had been sent to attack the French and their allies in the Deccan, but the Bombay Government thought they might first be employed with advantage in destroying the pirate in his den. Admiral Watson consented on certain conditions to employing the King's ships in reducing the fastness, and Colonel Robert Clive tendered his services. Commodore James was sent with three ships to reconnoitre the fortress which was believed "to be as strong as Gibraltar, and like that, situated on a mountain inaccessible from the sea." He however reported "that the place was not high nor nearly so strong as it had been represented." On the 7th February 1756 the fleet sailed from Bombay. It consisted of twelve men-of-war, six of the royal and six of the Company's, five bomb vessels, four Marátha grabs and fifty gallivats. On board this squadron to co-operate with it on the land side was a force of eight hundred Europeans, a company of King's artillery and six hundred Native troops. Before the fleet sailed the chief officers met to determine how the prize money should be divided. According to the King's proclamation Clive was only entitled to the same share as the Captain of a ship, but Watson generously consented "to give the Colonel such a part of his share as will make it equal to Rear Admiral Pocock's." On the 11th the squadron arrived off Gheria and found the Marátha force camped against it.

Tuláji A'ngria, terrified at the strength of the British fleet, left the fortress in charge of his brother and took refuge in the camp of his own countrymen. The Marátha General came on board the Admiral's ship and, Mr. Hugh in his diary informs us, he told the Admiral that "if we should have a little patience the fort would surrender without our firing a gun." He promised to bring Tuláji the next morning "to treat with us in regard to giving up the place, though at the same time he had the assurance to offer me any sum of money I could name on condition I could persuade the Admiral to desist commencing hostilities till they should deliver up the fort." Next morning the Marátha General did not appear according to promise and the Admiral determined "to run in and begin the attack as soon as the sea and wind would permit." The ships and bomb-ketches sailed straight into the harbour, anchored abreast of the fortress and opened a fire that in the course of a few hours silenced the enemy's guns. A shell set on fire one of A'ngria's ships and the whole of his fleet was burnt. Late in the evening Clive landed and occupied the ground between the Peshwá's army and the fort. Next afternoon, the morning having been spent in fruitless negotiations, "the ships warped in to within two hundred yards and opened fire on the walls with only the lower-deck guns." In a couple of hours the fort capitulated. One officer with sixty men marched into it and took possession and "at 36 minutes past 6 English colours were hoisted at the fort." Next morning Colonel Clive, with all the land forces, entered the citadel. This was a bitter disappointment to the Marátha General who, the diary informs us, "made use of all the methods he could think of for the place to be delivered up to him without any regard to us, and when he found he could not obtain his ends he even tempted our own officers, (who were lodged with a party of men within a hundred and fifty yards of the fort,) by offering them a lakh of rupees to let his people pass our centinels in order to get into the fort before us, which they rejected in a proper manner, and told him they would immediately fire upon him and his people if they did not retire, which they thought proper to do upon our people being ordered to present their firelocks."

On the 26th February the fleet returned to Bombay. The Government were very anxious to keep Gheria and offered to give Bánkot in exchange, but the Peshwa strongly objected to the exchange and wrote to the Governor on the subject. He informed him that the friendship between him and the King of England "was duly cultivated because of all Europeans the English are people of their honour" and as an example he quoted the behaviour of the Governor of Durmápatam to Mahomed Ally Caun, and significantly added: "I reckon your honor an Englishman as well as him." Mr. Bourchier in reply expressed his regret that the Peshwa should think him less an Englishman than these gentlemen, "or that I have not the honor of my King and country as much at heart," and informed the Peshwa "that I made a proposal of exchanging Bánkot for Gheria is true, but I never insisted on it unless it had been agreeable to you." Mr. Spencer was sent as envoy to Poona and had an interview with Nána. The Peshwa asked that he should assist him with troops and artillery in his intended invasion of the Karnátak, but the request was declined by the envoy "from the uncertain state affairs were in Europe regarding the French." Not deterred by this refusal he also requested aid "in his expedition against the people about Delhi," but this, writes Mr. Spencer, "I evaded as gently as I could by representing our situation which would not admit of our parting with people especially so far." The envoy seems to have conducted his difficult mission with considerable tact, and on the 12th October a treaty was signed which, besides securing certain commercial advantages, excluded the Dutch from the trade of the Marátha dominions and gave the English ten villages towards defraying the expenses of keeping up Bánkot.

As there remained nothing more to do on the Western Coast, Clive wrote the following letter, requesting permision to be allowed to proceed to Fort David, of which he had been appointed Governor :—

"Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—As the men-of-war will sail in four days for the other coast I am very desirous of your approbation and consent to take my passage for Fort St. George on one of them. It will be needless to explain the Secret Committee's intentions in sending me first to Bombay. Your Honour and Council being sufficiently acquainted therewith, I would only represent that, as the truce on the other side hath at least suspended all thoughts of carrying into execution the proposed plan till further advices from England, my absence may be dispensed with without detriment to the Company.

If your Honor and Council think my undertaking the expedition against Golconda absolutely necessary, my going to the other coast I apprehend, can occasion no loss of time or be any impediment thereto. The same conveyance which brings round the detachment ordered from home may bring me likewise.

The approach of the rainy season, if I am not misinformed, will make it impossible to take the field before next October, by which time I may be returned to Bombay; and as the success of the undertaking will greatly depend upon the train of Artillery, Major Chalmers (whose particular province it is) is very well qualified to give directions relating thereto. The expedition against Gheria has put the train in great forwardness, and I make no doubt but what remains to be done will be accomplished long before the month of October.

The above reasons will, I hope, induce your Honor and Council to think that as I cannot be of immediate use in a military capacity, I may be allowed in the meantime to look after the Company's interest and my own at Fort St David.

By offering my service against Gheria at a time when success could not be insured or private advantages foreseen, will, I flatter myself, be deemed a proof of my zeal and attachment to the Hon'ble Company's service, and indeed my obligations are of such a nature that I can have no choice when their interest is at stake, and though I much suspect both want of abilities and constitution to command so great an undertaking, yet, if called upon, I shall cheerfully exert myself in that service to which I owe every thing.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
ROBERT CLIVE.

Bombay 21st April 1756."

Dated three days later we find in the records another letter from Colonel Robert Clive, in which he complains of the way in which he had been treated regarding a court-martial on an officer which had been lately held. "Neither do I complain against your Honor and Council," he writes, "for ordering the general court-martial, but against the Governor only, who never thought proper to ask my advice or opinion, or even to inform me himself or by any other person whatever with one syllable relating thereto; and considering the rank I bear of Lieutenant-Colonel in his Majesty's service, of Deputy Governor of St. David, and of a member of the committee of this place, I do not think I have been treated by the Hon'ble Richard Bourchier, Esq., agreeably to the intentions of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, who, I flatter myself, will do justice herein when they come to hear thereof." Mr. Daniel Draper, Secretary to Government, was instructed to reply that the Government do not pretend to instruct Colonel Clive in military duty "but judge it necessary to put him in mind of something so generally known that no body can be supposed ignorant of them except such as willfully shut their eyes." The fact generally known was that a particular rank commenced when it was conferred for a particular service and "expired of course when that service was no more needed." Mr. Draper was also further directed to acquaint Colonel Clive "that the Board had no intention to insult or affront you, and that they can likewise answer the same for the President, but that they do not think him in the least obliged to be accountable to any

officer of whatever rank, or the Governor of any other settlement, for what he shall think proper to lay before the Board, and that they as readily as you refer the whole of this affair to the determination of the Hon'ble Company." Clive and Watson, the diary records, left Bombay early in April for Fort St. George.

Three years after the capture of Gheria, the Bombay Government determined to send another embassy to the Maráthás, as "Nána the Peshwa had frequently desired the President to send a person to Poona with whom he might converse with freedom and confidence regarding our interests." The Peshwa was greatly offended at our not assisting him to take Janjira; and it was publicly reported that Nána had been treating with the French, and that he had offered to assist them in taking Bombay if they would assist him in taking Janjira We had also just then captured the Castle of Surat, much to the disgust of the Maráthás, and the envoy was to soothe Nána by informing him, that, if the Navâb of Surat did not pay him what was justly his due, we should "always be ready to exert our interest and influence in obtaining him redress." Mr. William Andrew Price was chosen to be our envoy, and he left Bombay on the 24th August 1759. He reached the Sangam on the 4th. "This village is situated on the banks of the river Mula on one side as Poona is on the other. The river is fordable." He found the Bráhmans engaged in funeral ceremonies and so could not obtain an interview with the Peshwa. After some little delay he saw Nána at Parvati, but all political discussion seems to have been carefully avoided. The envoy, however, tells us, that "having had an opportunity of enquiring into the situation of affairs with respect to our nation," he finds that the success of the English troops was a very mortifying stroke to the Maráthás, and that he had some reason likewise to think that "they have made overtures to the French of joining them against Bombay, provided they will assist them in taking Janjira from the Siddi." Shortly afterwards the envoy had another interview with Nána, but he only entertained him with a sight of his horses and discoursed on indifferent matters. He, however, referred him to his Ministers, with whom he had a long conference. They told him if we would not engage to assist them against the Siddi they would not enter upon any other business. On the 30th Nána sent Mr. Price an invitation to a tent pitched without the town, "where he entertained me with the combats of elephants, which lasted about three hours; and although I had much discourse with him on the affairs of Europe in general, yet he never once mentioned his reasons for inviting me to Poona." More interviews followed and much parleying took place, but nothing definite was settled. Nána declared his intention of sending one of his Ministers to the President at Bombay, and the envoy left Poona after a sojourn of two months.

Two years after the embassy visited Poona, the terrible Afghan Abdali invaded India for the second time, and totally defeated the Maráthás on the fatal field of Pániput 1761. Not only was their power in Northern India destroyed, but the hope of Hindu supremacy over the continent perished. Nána Sáheb survived the disaster only a few months. He was succeeded by his second son Mádhavráv Ballál, the eldest having perished at Pániput. The Peshwa was only seventeen when he mounted the throne, and his uncle Rághoba made strenuous efforts to keep him in a state of pupilage; but he took the reins of government into his own hands, and with great wisdom and firmness guided the State. In 1769 an embassy was sent to him by the Bombay Government. In their letter of instructions to their envoy, Mr. Mostyn, they declared that the growing power of the Maráthás was a subject much to be lamented, "and has not failed to attract our attention as well as that of the Presidencies of Madras and Bengal, inasmuch that nothing either in their power or ours would be omitted to check the same as much as possible." But the dread of Hyder Alli "renders it highly

advantageous to pursue a different plan by endeavouring all in our power to cultivate an alliance with them." The envoy was to attempt to negotiate an alliance against Hyder. On the 29th November 1767 Mr. Mostyn reached "a pagoda called Ganesh Khind within one kos of Poona." He resided at the capital for three months, and had many interviews with the Peshwa. He was always treated with great courtesy by the Sovereign and Ministers, and many intricate negotiations were begun, but none were brought to any definite conclusion, because both parties were watching the tide of events. The Maráthás did not care to make any treaty if Hyder proved victorious, and we did not wish to make any treaty if we could crush him without their aid. While Mr. Mostyn was at Poona, the President and Council of Bombay took the first step in a policy which led to disaster and the loss of many lives shed in a fruitless war which raged during many years. Mr. Brome, Mr. Mostyn's assistant, was sent on a mission to Rághoba, who was then residing at Násik. Rághoba complained bitterly of the ingratitude of his nephew the Peshwa, and of the conduct of the Ministers at Poona, and announced his intention of punishing them as soon as the weather would permit of troops being moved. He expressed a hope that the English would engage on his side, and that he would receive help from them when he might take up arms. The envoy asked what his masters were to expect in return should they think proper to give him assistance. He replied, "he would with pleasure pay ready money for what he might receive from their hands." Mr. Brome remarked, that his masters did not make a practice of hiring out their troops, and he presumed that "they would expect some advantages exclusive of the bare pay of their troops, and the amount of such ammunition he might receive from their hands." Rághoba inquired what would content the Bombay Government, and the envoy replied that he had received no instructions regarding this matter, but he presumed "they would expect something adequate to the assistance." Rághoba on his part refused to make any proposals until he was assured of assistance, and Mr. Brome took leave of Rághoba, and his mission was barren of any immediate results. Five years after Mr. Mostyn visited Poona Mádhávráv died, and his early death was a national calamity. He was succeeded by his brother Naráyánráv, a lad of eighteen, who, after having enjoyed the throne for a few months, was murdered. Rághoba now assumed the dignity of Peshwa (1773), and in order to strengthen his position, entered into negotiations with Sindia, Holkar and the English.

When Bájiráv the first Peshwa usurped the supreme authority, Raghoji Bhonsla who was Commander-in-Chief of the forces, and held the province of Berár in jághír, proceeded to turn it into an independent Government. As the Mahomedan historian informs us, "this man was the first who assumed independence from being a tax-gatherer." The example set by the Peshwa was also followed by his own subordinates. Mulhárji Holkar, a cavalry soldier of the Sudra caste, Ránoji Sindia, slipper-bearer, and Piláji Gáikawár, the cowherd, from being menials became the founders of regal dynasties. They held commissions from the Peshwa to effect certain conquests which they received upon certain stipulations, the chief of which was to maintain a body of troops for the support of the empire. The distance of their sphere of action, however, removed them from the control of the Peshwa, and they began to make war and peace without his knowledge and approbation, and to use the troops not for the advantage of the empire but their own aggrandisement. In course of time each assumed independent authority, and, while they professed nominal obedience to the Peshwa, they stood in the same relation to him as the Peshwa stood in respect to the Rája of Sátára, the descendant of Shiváji. The year before the death of Mádhavráv, Mahádji Sindia, who had been wounded at Pániput, again gained for the Maráthás an ascendency in Upper India. He recovered Delhi from the Rohillás, and with great pomp reseated the Mogal Emperor on the Imperial throne.

To the great Mahádji, Rághoba applied for aid when the Ministers of State at Poona formed a party in favour of the widow of the late Peshwa.

Caste jealousies had now begun to sap the foundation of the Marátha Empire. The early Peshwas, who were called Pant Pradháns when the office was first instituted by Shiváji, belonged to a Bráhmanical caste called Deshasths, but Báláji Vishvanáth, who so greatly increased the power of the office of Peshwa, was of an inferior caste of Bráhmans called Chitpávans. Rája Rám, the second son of Shiváji, had, however, created the post of Pant Pratinidhi or Viceroy, which was given to a Bráhman of the Deshasth caste. Great jealousy naturally arose between the followers of the Pant Pratinidhi and the followers of the Peshwa. The former regarded the Peshwas as mere upstarts so far as social and religious status was concerned, and the Peshwas exercised the whole of their power to deprive the higher Bráhmans of any influence in the State. The Ministers were anxious to decrease the power of the Peshwa as the Peshwa had decreased the power of the descendants of Shiváji, and they were aided by all the higher castes who had been deprived of office. "The wise and just administration of Rághoba," writes Mr. Taylor, "would have totally defeated the views these men had formed of benefiting themselves by the minority of Madhávráv. They therefore exerted every artifice and intrigue to deprive Rághoba of power. It was industriously reported that the widow of the late Peshwa was pregnant, and she was taken to Purandhar and kept in close confinement. The better to secure, it is supposed, a male child somehow, five Bráhman women in the same state as the widow of Náráyanráv were said to have accompanied her, every person supposed to be in the interest of Rághoba was guarded, and the confederates immediately set about collecting troops to support this declared rebellion against the Peshwa." At first fortune smiled on Rághoba and he defeated the rival party and took their Commander-in-Chief prisoner. In this crisis it was announced that the widow of the Peshwa had given birth to a son, and when only forty days old the child was formally installed. Rághoba now sought the aid of Sindia and Holkar, but finding that they would give him no substantial assistance to regain his power, he began negotiations with the English. The Bombay Government promised to assist him with men if he would advance them money, and on his regaining power cede to the East India Company Sálsette with Bassein and its dependencies.

While these negotiations were in progress news reached the Council that the Portuguese intended to take advantage of the discord which prevailed at Poona to seize these places. "Had this event taken place," the Bombay Government wrote to the Governor General and Council, "it would not only effectually have prevented us from ever acquiring Sálsette for the Hon'ble Company, but the Portuguese would then again have had it in their power to obstruct our trade by being in possession of the principal passes to the inland country, and to lay whatever imposition they pleased upon it, which in former times on every occasion they were so prone to do, which of course would have been of infinite prejudice to the trade, revenues, and interests of the Company in these parts, insomuch that we should in a great measure have been subject to the caprice of the Portuguese." The very day the forces set out against Thána, the Portuguese fleet appeared off Bombay, and "the Commander of which so soon as he gained intelligence of our proceedings, delivered a formal protest, by direction, as he said, of the Captain General of Goa, which shows the necessity of the measure we have pursued." After a long and wearisome march, "the distance from Sion to this place" having "been much misrepresented," our troops got possession of the town of Thána. The siege of the fortress was a more difficult task than was anticipated. Mr. John Watson, Superintendent of the Bombay Marine, and General Gordon, who were sent "to co-operate with each other for the good of the service," differed, as to the method of reducing the fort. The former wished to take the small

forts, gain command of the water, and starve Thána into submission; but the latter did not consider his force to be sufficiently strong to bear being disunited. He writes "our detachments drive the enemy wherever they meet them, but even in beating them we lose men and harass the survivors. I am therefore resolved to carry on the siege with the utmost vigour and with all my force. The fort once taken the inferior posts will fall, and we may then with propriety make large detachments but not till then." In another letter he says—"I cannot make small ones to expose our arms to loss and disgrace." During the siege a cannon ball came through an old wall near which Mr. Watson was standing, driving the dust into his eyes while a stone struck him on the arm. The wound at first did not seem to be dangerous, but a few days after receiving it he had to leave Thána, and in the diary of the 26th December 1774 we read—"The body of the late John Watson, Esq., was interred this morning in the burying ground without the town, being attended by the principal inhabitants. Every public honor due on this occasion to his rank and merit was paid to his memory" (p. 201). It was also "unanimously resolved that a handsome monument be ordered to his memory in the church with a suitable inscription on it at the Hon'ble Company's expense." On the 27th December an attempt was made to fill up the ditch, and our troops "persisted in the work for nearly two hours with the utmost steadiness under a most galling and incessant fire from the breach." "But our loss in killed and wounded," the General writes, "was so great that I was obliged to order them to retreat before the passage across the ditch could be completed." "The grenadiers," we are told, "did every thing that men could do." The next day the fort was taken by assault, and "the slaughter was very great from the resentment of the soldiers from their former sufferings."

On the last day of the year 1774 Thána was captured and on the 7th March the long pending treaty between Rághoba and the Government of Bombay was signed at Surat. Troops under the command of Colonel Keating were now despatched from Bombay to conduct Rághoba to Poona and instal him as Peshwa. After a short stay at Surat they, accompanied by Rághoba, proceeded to Cambay, which port after a tedious and disagreeable voyage they reached on the 17th of March. Three days after landing they were joined by the army which Rághoba had deserted after his defeat by Holkar and Sindia. Before leaving Cambay Colonel Keating's detachment had been reinforced by two companies of European grenadiers and one battalion of sepoys from Madras. His force now consisted of 2,500 men, besides Rághoba's troops, the major portion of which was a mere rabble. The united army now marched towards the river Sábarmati through a fertile country; but it being the end of the dry season, the wells and reservoirs were found to be dry, and the men suffered greatly from the lack of water. On reaching the village of Hasamli, the English Commander found the confederate army posted on the opposite side of the river. They immediately advanced to the attack, and a sharp engagement ensued. The enemy were compelled to retire after suffering considerable loss. In the English line eight men were wounded and none killed. Rághoba's army remained mere spectators of the fray. After the engagement the army crossed the river and proceeded to Kaira. On arriving there they found the confederate army had retired to some distance, and, leaving the town unmolested, they marched to the village of Hyderabad (p. 223), where their progress was barred by the confederate army who had taken up a commanding position. After an engagement, which lasted about a couple of hours, the enemy were repulsed. The loss on the English side was slight, but "Rághoba's loss was more considerable, near thirty killed and wounded, as the greatest part of the enemy's shot seemed directed to that quarter where the Peshwa was in person on his elephant." The victors marched to Nadiád and encamped under its walls. After Rághoba had levied a contribution of sixty lákhs from the inhabitants of the city the army proceeded towards the river Máhi. On the 18th May the two forces again con-

fronted each other. The battle is minutely described in Colonel Keating's frank letter (p. 226). It began by a cannonade on the rear, where Rághoba was seated on his state elephant. But the fire was quickly silenced. The guns were being withdrawn when the order was given for a party to make a dash to capture two which were behind the rest. But the assailants as they got near the guns were attacked by a large body of the enemy. They were driven back but again returned to the struggle. At this critical moment a large body of cavalry with several war elephants, by declaring themselves to be Rághoba's, managed to penetrate between the advanced party and our main body. A sudden and unaccountable panic among the grenadiers nearly lost us the day; but after an engagement of four hours the enemy were routed. The victory was dearly purchased. An eye-witness tells us, "but of fifteen British officers in the advanced divisions seven were killed and four wounded, besides a great many native officers and two hundred sepoys; we also had to lament eighty Europeans killed and missing, mostly grenadiers. The officers at that unfortunate crisis, separated from the line, and deserted by their soldiers, bravely fell in the bed of honor. I had been conversing with most of them during the morning march, and in the evening was called to bury them in a large fort with their comrades." The loss of the vanquished was great, and among them were several officers of high rank. The eye-witness writes: "Many of the Maráthás fell in attempting to carry off the killed and wounded, an act of humanity to which they pay the greatest attention."[1]

The hard fought battle of Arras was almost the only success gained to the cause of Rághoba, and it was short-lived. A few days after it was fought the Supreme Government pronounced "the war which you have entered into against the Marátha State impolitic, dangerous, unauthorized, and unjust" (p. 238). "You have imposed on yourselves," they wrote, "the charge of conquering the whole Marátha Empire for a man who appears incapable of affording you any effectual assistance in it". The Supreme Government peremptorily required that the Company's forces should be withdrawn "to your own garrison in whatsoever state your affairs may be, unless their safety may be endangered by an instant retreat." The letter bears the signature of Warren Hastings as the head of the Government, but it did not express accurately his sentiments regarding the policy of the Bombay Government. In a letter to Lawrence Sulivan, dated 21st March, he writes: "I have always considered the capture of Sálsette as an act of necessity and of good policy, not inconsistent with the most rigid principles of political justice. I never approved of the treaty with Rághoba, nor the precipitate measure of the war undertaken without a force of treasure to support it, without a plan of conduct, and with little necessity and less profit to requite it. But as it is almost impossible to withdraw from a war before the conclusion of it with honor and safety, had it rested with me I would have directed them to prosecute their original design by escorting Rághoba to Poona, and to get clear of the war as soon as they could with honor and safety. But I was not in a position to dictate, and the language of the majority was to order the Presidency of Bombay to withdraw their forces immediately and without any reservation. All the good that I could do was by temporizing. I therefore advised that an order should be sent to withdraw the army, but I proposed to qualify the order with the following exceptions: 1stly, that the safety of the troops might be endangered by it; 2ndly, that any decisive advantage had been gained over the enemy; and, 3rdly, that a negotiation had taken place. In either of these cases I proposed that the order should not have effect. The majority adopted the first exception but rejected the other two." He also adds—"I have taken much pains to temper the severity of our Board in their

[1] Forbes' Oriental Memoirs, Vol. II.

letter to Bombay * * *. You long ago knew my wish to see a control given to this Government over the presidencies; but I never meant such a control as is now exercised; nor did the Parliament mean it. The Act gives us a mere negative power, and no more. It says the other presidencies shall not make war nor treaties without the sanction of this Government, but carefully guards against every expression which can imply a power to dictate what the other presidencies shall do; much less does it authorize the Governor General and Council to make cessions and exchange places for the other presidencies. Instead of uniting all the powers of India, all the use we have hitherto made of this Act of Parliament has been to tease and embarrass."[1]

The Bombay Government ordered Colonel Keating to return with his forces into British territory, and Mr. Hornby the President wrote a dignified protest against the action of the Supreme Government (p. 239). He declared that he and his colleagues considered that the welfare of the presidency entirely depended on their preventing the island of Sálsette from again falling into the hands of the Portuguese, and "in this situation we are of opinion policy absolutely required that we should side with one of the contending parties in the Marátha State that it might be reconciled to our motives for that attack, and to our continuing in possession of that island. This necessity being allowed, justice doubtless required that we should take part with Rághoba the Peshwa, and in duty to our employers we made this decision as advantageous to them as possible, as we think is evident from the treaty." They proceed to inform the Governor General that they have deputed Mr. William Taylor," a member of our Board to visit Calcutta in order, more fully than can be done by letter at so great a distance, to represent to your Honor and Council the motives for all our proceedings, the present situation of affairs, with the danger and discredit that must allow our treaty being cancelled and Rághoba deserted." Mr. Taylor on reaching Calcutta wrote a very full and able letter regarding Marátha affairs. The letter deserves to be closely studied by students of history, as it throws fresh light on the causes which led to the rapid decline of the Marátha Empire. But the arguments of Mr. Taylor had no effect on the Supreme Government. They inform him that "after duly considering the representations which you have been pleased to deliver to us, we are confirmed in our opinion of the expediency of the Company's troops being immediately recalled from the service of Rághoba in their own garrison" (p. 269.) They also declared their intention of deputing an agent of their own, Colonel Upton, to negotiate with the ruling ministerial party at Poona. At first the pretensions of the Ministry at Poona were so great that it was impossible to make any settlement with them, and on the 7th March the Supreme Government, thinking that Colonel Upton's negotiations had been entirely broken off, wrote to the Bombay Government to renew hostilities. They said: "We think it necessary to take the earliest opportunity to release you from the restrictions which we formerly laid upon your operations, and to provide every means in our power for carrying on the war in conjunction with Rághoba with vigour". The Treaty of Purandhar, however, to the disappointment of the Governor-General and the Bombay Government had been signed before the letter was written. "The Treaty of Purandhar" writes Warren Hastings to a friend, "was executed the 1st of March 1776—I disapproved it." The treaty established peace between the British Government and the ministerial party, and dissolved the alliance with Rághoba, who appealed to the King of England. He had entered into a solemn treaty with the Governor of Bombay, and in his letter (p. 282) he wrote: "The English custom is very well known everywhere like the sun, that is if any Governor has undertaken any

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[1] Life of Warren Hastings.

business, the other unite to confirm the same, and join him to get it accomplished I believe the said Governor Hastings may have done what he did, not understanding the business, all which your Majesty may have heard from the representations of the said Governor Hornby. Good fame, reputation, and uprightness of English nation is publicly known in this part of the world. It is therefore right that every one of them ought to get the just and solemn agreements which their Governor may have made with any man accomplished, not suffering any man to interrupt it."

The Treaty of Purandhar was only a temporary and hollow truce. The Bombay Government continued to give protection to Rághoba, and the Maráthás delayed and evaded the concessions they had made. It was impossible that any treaty which excepted Salsette would meet with the approval of the patriot party in the Capital of the Deccan. Two years passed in appeals from the Bombay and Poona authorities to the Governor-General and Council, and in ineffectual, though earnest, endeavours on their part to reconcile them. A new feature was added to the dispute by the arrival of Mons. Chevalier de St. Lubin at Poona. Nána Fadanavis, who had strenuously obstructed the fulfilment of the treaty, immediately attached himself to the Chevalier. The British envoy complained that "indeed in every respect they pay the greatest attention to the French." Mons. de St. Lubin was received with great pomp by the Peshwa when he delivered his credentials, "being letters from the King and Ministers of France." The letters from J. Madgett, and Mr. Farmer, of the Bombay Civil Service, (pp. 291 and 296) reveal in detail the exploits of Mons. St. Lubin. The main object of the Chevalier was to establish a factory, supported by a military force, at Poona, and to obtain a sea-port near Bombay. If he had succeeded, the French would have gained their former importance in India, and the English would have had to battle with them, supported by all the powers and resources of the Marátha Empire, for the supremacy of the East. If St. Lubin had accomplished his design of bringing into Poona an European force and European officers to drill the natives, he would have made the Government of the Peshwa united and powerful, and once more in all probability the Maráthás would have ravaged the plains of Hindustán. The Bombay Government in their resolution, dated 10th December 1777, very properly remark, that "if time is given to the French for the French Ministry to take their measure and to supply Nána with a body of forces, we can expect nothing but a repetition of the scene of wars and intrigues formerly acted on the coast of Coromandel, which will certainly be fatal to the influence of the English on this coast, and may end in our total subversion." At this critical time the rivalry between Sakárám Bápu created a division in the Council of the Poona Ministry, and the former made overtures for the assistance of the Company to bring Rághoba to Poona. The Bombay Government resolved "that if a formal application were made it might certainly with the utmost justice be considered as an application from the Marátha State and treated accordingly, as Sakárám Bápu is the Diván, or first officer, in the Government, and the principal person with whom Colonel Upton concluded the late treaty on behalf of the State, he being the Minister first named in the treaty." It was also ordered that the "resolution be immediately forwarded to the Governor General and Council, who, we flatter ourselves, will do justice to our motives and afford their approbation and support to the step we have taken, and to the measures we may further pursue. The approbation and support of the Supreme Government was, after a stormy debate, gained only by the casting vote of Hastings. Francis and Wheler condemned the resolutions as illegal, unjust, and impolitic.[1] They argued

[1] Mr. Francis:—"I think the Presidency of Bombay should be directed to make some concessions to the ministerial party at Poona, and to endeavour to come to an accommodation with them as soon as possible. If we were to relinquish every one of the points which have been in dispute between us since the conclusion of the treaty, we should neither give up anything that originally belonged to us, nor indeed anything that is worth keeping. Terri-

that it was taken without the sanction of the supreme authority, that it was contrary to the Treaty of Purandhar, and that it involved the British in the dangers and burdens of war. Hastings and Barwell argued that the emergency justified the illegality, that it was not contrary to the treaty, because the principal person with whom the treaty had been made had proposed it, and that it was not impolitic, because it would give the English permanent influence in the Marátha Empire. Warren Hastings wrote: "I instantly proposed that we should authorize the design and that we should promise them our assistance both in men and money to support the execution of it, and I at the same time sent Mr. Hornby a copy of the proposed resolutions, to prevent the effects of the delays which I expected in passing them. They were passed on the 2nd of February, Mr. Barwell supporting them, and Messrs. Francis and Wheler dissenting and protesting." The main resolutions of the Governor General and Council were (p. 309), that it is the opinion of the Board that the President and Council of Bombay are warranted by the Treaty of Purandhar to join in a plan for conducting Rághunáthráv to Poona on the application of the ruling part of the administration of the Marátha State: (7th) that a supply of money to the amount of ten lákhs of rupees be immediately granted to the President and Council of Bombay: (8th) that military assistance be sent to the Presidency. A force under Colonel Leslie was ordered to cross the continent and place themselves under the orders of the Government of Bombay.

On the 24th November 1778 a new treaty with Rághoba was signed. The terms were similar to those of the treaty of 1775, but the English instead of aiding him to gain the throne specially stipulated that he was to be invested with power merely as Regent for the young Peshwa during his minority. The day after the conclusion of the treaty the Bombay force crossed the harbour and landed at Panvel. It consisted of about five hundred Europeans, and two thousand native infantry. The troops were commanded by Colonel Egerton, but the conduct of the war was entrusted to a Committee consisting of John Carnac, Esq., Colonel Charles Egerton, and Thomas Mostyn. No better plan to insure failure could have been devised. Valuable time which ought to have been occupied in advancing was devoted to petty quarrels. Disputes arose as to the number of guns the civilian members were entitled to, and Colonel Egerton insisted on having the honour of a separate table. Twenty-five days passed before the army "proceeded up the Ghát to Khandála." Mr. Carnac wrote to the Government, "Colonel Egerton's military ideas seem wholly derived from the mode of practice he has seen and observed during the short time he was in Germany, and he proceeds with the same precaution as if he had an European enemy to deal with, whereas the only method of ensuring success in this country is to advance and be forward." On the 6th January Colonel Egerton owing to ill-health requested "permission to resign the command, and proceed immediately to Bombay", which was agreed to. The Colonel, however, found the road to Bombay impracticable, and he returned to Camp and continued to act on the Committee. It now began to dawn on all concerned that the task they had undertaken was more difficult than they had imagined. No single chief joined Rághoba's standard. The hopes which the Committee had formed of a general rising in favour of Rághoba were grievously disappointed. The scheme of pushing into the heart of the Marátha Empire with a small army, they discovered, was a difficult one to accomplish. As the British force advanced the enemy retreated, and burnt and laid waste the

torial acquisitions on that side of India are inconsistent with the Company's true interest, and no less contrary to their avowed fundamental policy. When we see that even their favourite acquisition of Sálsette is attended with an annual outlay of Rs. 1,40,849, that is that the expenses of maintaining the different establishments there exceed the revenues of the island by so great a sum, we ought, I think, to be deterred by decisive experiment from wishing to gain more in that part of India, or even to keep a great part of what we have gained."—(Extract of Bengal Secret Consultation, 11th July 1778.)

whole country. When the English reached the village of Talegaon they found it reduced to ashes, and the deserters and prisoners informed them that the Maráthás "had determined to burn Chinchvad, a town still more large and populous than Talegaon, and that measures are also taken even for the destruction of Poona." The army halted two days at Talegaon. On the 11th the Committee wrote the following fatal letter to the officer commanding the forces :—

"To

Lieutenant-Colonel WILLIAM COCKBURN,

Commanding the English Forces now at Talegaon.

Sir,—Having maturely deliberated upon the necessity of the measure, you are hereby directed to march back the army under your command towards the pass at Khandála as expeditiously as possible.

J. CARNAC.
CHARLES EGERTON.

Talegaon, 11th January 1779."

At night the heavy guns were thrown into a pond, the stores were burnt, and the British force began to retreat. It was fondly imagined that the Maráthás would not gain intelligence of the movement. But the advanced guard had not proceeded far when they were attacked by the enemy. Before dawn the small force was surrounded and fiercely assaulted on rear and flank ; and it was sunset before they made good their retreat to the village of Wargaon. The only consoling circumstance was that "the troops during the whole time behaved with the greatest bravery." The hours of respite were few. At daybreak the enemy's guns began to play on the village, and they advanced to the attack. They were repulsed. But they came on again and again, and the battle raged the whole day. On the 13th instant we read, "a Committee was held to deliberate relative to overtures for the peaceable return of the army to Poona. No minutes taken, being in a severe cannonade and a number of persons standing round." The next morning Mr. Farmer was sent to the Marátha camp to negotiate terms with them. He was conducted to the top of a hill, where he was presented to Mahádji Sindia and Nána Fadanavis. Their answer to his overtures was curt : "If we wished to remain at peace with them Raghunáthráv must be delivered up, (p. 368) and then we might return quietly otherwise we might do as we please." There was no difficulty in complying with this request for Rághoba had previously made up his mind to surrender himself to Sindia. The Marátha Ministers, however, on hearing that we were willing to comply with their request, proceeded to demand more rigorous terms. "Nana Fadanavis said, as we had broken the treaty concluded by Colonel Upton, before our army moved we must agree to remain as we were by our treaty with the late Peshwa Nána" (p. 369). The envoy then appealed to Sindia. But the result was not more satisfactory. "He said that, as to the surrender of Rághoba it mattered little ; that we must settle a new treaty with the Marátha State, the one made by Colonel Upton being entirely broken by the present invasion of their country. In a few words, they seem to me to feel themselves in that situation with respect to us which the Turkish Vizier felt himself in with respect to Peter I. at the time the Empress Catharine sent in her jewels to the Vizier." The Committee on receipt of this intelligence called upon Colonel Cockburn to give his opinion relative to the practicability of marching back the army to Bombay. He declared that the troops could not sustain another attack from the Marátha army. He also added that being forty-five miles from Panvel it was not possible to reach that place in twenty days, and the small

army could not survive the daily attacks they were certain to encounter. "I therefore," he said, "cannot charge myself to conduct the army under these circumstances to Bombay, and humanity must prompt some other method than an attempt to retire in the face of the whole strength of the Marátha empire with such a handful of men, who must in such case be sacrificed." Colonel Egerton declared that his sentiments coincided with those expressed by Colonel Cockburn. The minutes of the Consultation held by the Poona Committee at Wargaon, the 15th January, prove that Mr. Carnac did not agree with his colleagues. He declared that the attempt ought to be made at all events rather than submit to the terms prescribed by the enemy, to which we have no authority to bind our employés. "And for his own part he would much sooner run his share of the risk than that they should be complied with." It was resolved "to advise Mr. Farmer that we have no powers to enter into or conclude any treaties, such power being solely lodged with the Governor General and Council of Bengal." The Committee, however, agreed to the contradictory resolution to send Mr. Holmes to Sindia, and to give him full powers to settle with the Darbár for the peaceable return of the army to Bombay, on such conditions as he may be able to obtain, since it is the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief that a retreat is impracticable. Sindia, on being told that the Bombay Government considered they had no power to make a treaty, naively demanded what authority they had to break a treaty. He did not care whether Rághoba surrendered or not, but till the English made a new treaty the army must remain where it was, whatever might be the consequence. The Maráthás' terms were accepted. The English agreed to restore Sálsette and all territory acquired since 1782, and to countermand the march of Colonel Goddard. Sindia was promised the English share of Broach, and £40,000 were distributed among his followers.

The Bombay Government on hearing the news of the miserable convention at once repudiated it, on the ground that their agents had no power to make a treaty. It was fortunate that at this critical time the Bengal detachment was commanded by a soldier of courage and capacity. "I have every reason," wrote Warren Hastings, "to be satisfied with Colonel Goddard. He is one of the best executive officers in the service, remarkably lively and enterprizing." On hearing of the defeat of the Bombay troops, Goddard showed his bold and venturous temper by marching from Bundeldcund to Surat, a distance of three hundred miles, in twenty days. This was called in England "a frantic military exploit," but by such exploits our empire in India was won. The Supreme Government on hearing the news of the convention of Wargaon wrote to the Bombay Government that they "deemed it necessary to invest Colonel Goddard with full powers, as the public minister of this Government to treat with the Peshwa and the Ministers of the Marátha State for the renewal or confirmation of the Treaty of Purandhar, provided they will recede from the pretensions which they have acquired by the late engagements of Messrs. Carnac and Egerton, and will agree not to admit any French force to their dominions, nor allow that nation to form any establishment on the Marátha coast, empowering him to conclude a treaty with them on these conditions, the acceptance or refusal of which must determine the alternative of peace or war" (p. 386).

The Maráthás would not make peace on these terms, and on the 1st of January 1780 General Goddard marched from Surat to join the Bombay troops and to renew the war. On the 19th of January he appeared before Dubhoi, which was evacuated by the enemy after all preparations for attacking it had been made. Six days later a treaty was signed, by which the Company and Fattesing Gáikawár divided Gujarát. The former obtained the lands which belonged to the Poona Government, and "the English agreed to support and defend Fattesing in possession of his share of the Gujarát province." After the conclusion of the treaty General Goddard

marched against Ahmedabad, which the English had promised to restore to the Gáikawár. On arriving before the city he demanded its surrender. The Bráhman Governor expressed his own willingness to comply with the demand, but declared that he was only a prisoner in the hands of the Arab and Sindy mercenaries, who would not give up the place till the arrears of salary due to them had been paid (p. 396). Finding his efforts to gain the city by negotiations ineffectual, General Goddard began operations in earnest. Batteries were erected and their fire soon created a practicable breach. On the 15th the assault was made. The enemy stood their ground resolutely, and a bloody contest took place. Near three hundred of the enemy fell near the breach and gateway before they were driven in. Of the besiegers one hundred and six were killed and wounded, among which were several European officers. At Ahmedabad General Goddard heard that the united armies of Sindia and Holkar, amounting to 40,000 men, were advancing towards Surat; and he immediately retraced his steps to attack them. By forced marches he arrived at Baroda, where they were encamped. But Sindia, taken by surprise, had no inclination to try the chances of battle. To prevent himself from being attacked, he released from their confinement the English gentlemen who had been left as hostages with him after the convention of Wargaon, and a Vakil accompanied them to the English camp. He declared his master's friendship for the English and hatred towards Náua. He wished the General would "make such proposals to his master as might be consistent with the views and conducive to the interests of both parties." But Goddard refused to make the first overtures. After the lapse of three days the Vakil returned, and in the name of his sovereign proposed that Rágobha should relinquish all claims to any share in the administration of Poona; that Bájiráv his son should be appointed the Peshwa's Diván; but as he was too young to conduct the affairs of the state the whole administration should be in the hands of Sindia (405). General Goddard replied that the English "could not, consistent with their honor, ever agree to put any restraint upon Rághoba or compel him to leave their dominions." Goddard, suspecting that Sindia's sole object was to keep him inactive during the fair season, attempted to force a battle, but Sindia retreated as the English army advanced. On the 3rd of April, however, Goddard managed with a small detachment to surprise his army. "Seeing the inferiority of our force, and presuming upon their own numbers, they advanced with much appearance of courage and resolution, but were received by so warm and well directed a fire from our artillery that they were obliged to give way, and in the space of about an hour quitted the field entirely." The Bombay Government in acknowledging the receipt of General Goddard's letter describing the engagement, congratulated him on his success, but reminded him that the capture of Bassein ought to be the main object of the campaign. They wrote: "The danger of such a fortification, so contiguous to our possessions, remaining in the hands of the enemy at this time of an European war, and the advantage and security the acquisition of it would give to this Presidency makes us very earnest in our wishes not to leave the reduction of this place to the hazard of future accident or circumstances; nor can we think that any other object can claim a preference to your attention or bring this campaign to a more honorable and advantageous conclusion." But in case the General did not intend to move to the southward before the close of the season, "a due attention to the safety of this place, which you must be sensible, is now in a very destitute and unprovided situation with respect to troops, makes it absolutely and indispensably requisite that the Bombay detachment under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hartley should be returned into garrison as soon as possible before the monsoon shuts up the communication by sea, as it would be the height of imprudence to suffer this place to remain with such a slender force for its defence at the season most favourable for a sudden attack, when no relief can be afforded in case of any attempts from the French." In accordance with this request the General sent back the Bombay detachment and

put his own troops into cantonments as the rainy season had begun. Holkar and Sindia returned to their own territories.

The Bombay detachment left Baroda on the 8th May, and it was on the evening of the 24th that the advanced guard came in sight of Kalyán. The town had been captured only a few weeks before by Captain Campbell with a handful of men. But the moment Nána Fadanavis heard of its fall, knowing the strategical importance of the place, he advanced with a large body of men and closely invested it. He had fixed on the morn of the 25th for making a desperate attempt to take it by assault; but to his surprise his troops were attacked by Colonel Hartley's force on their march to the town. A smart engagement ensued, in which large numbers of the enemy were killed. The Maráthás, after their defeat, retired from the Konkan and cantoned their troops during the rains.

It was during the monsoon that the evil tidings came to Bombay that Hyder Ali, with an army of sixty thousand men, had invaded the plains of the Karnátak. All the serene courage of Hastings and all the resources of the English were required for the struggle with Hyder—a struggle for life and death. "We have no resource", said Governor Hornby, "but such as we may find in our own efforts." Their chief resource was the skill of their General and the bravery of their troops. Goddard advanced against Bassein, and on the 13th of December he wrote and congratulated the Government on its surrender (p. 431). He immediately advanced to the help of Hartley, who had been engaged in preventing the enemy from throwing succour into the town. On the same day that Goddard captured Bassein the Maráthás endeavoured to destroy Hartley's small detachment. With a force of 20,000 men and 5 guns they attacked him in front and rear. After a severe struggle they were driven back, but the victor's loss amounted "to sixteen killed and eighty wounded." The next day the enemy renewed the attack on the outposts and were again repulsed. Hartley narrates one of the most gallant feats recorded in the annals of the conquest of India in a few modest lines. Two days after this severe affray with the enemy Hartley was joined by Goddard. At this time news came from the Supreme Council of their having offered terms to the Marátha Government. They also directed that on receipt of a certain requisition all military operations should be suspended, but until such notification they earnestly recommended a vigorous prosecution of the war. Goddard, thinking that a display of vigour would quickly bring the Poona Government to terms, on the 1st February 1781, advanced and stormed the Bor Ghát (p. 436). He then sent to Nána "the proposals of the Hon'ble the Governor General and Council of Bengal for concluding a treaty of perpetual alliance with the Maráthás." The Minister replied that the contents of the treaty were not proper or fit for the approbation of the Sarkár. He also added: "If you are sincere in your desire of friendship it is therefore incumbent upon you to make a treaty that shall include the proposals of those persons who are alluded to and connected with the councils of that Sarkár" (p. 440). By those persons Nána meant Hyder Alli, our inveterate foe. All hopes of concluding a treaty were now abandoned. Goddard was desirous of maintaining during the monsoon a strong position at the Bor Ghat, but the Bombay Government determined that the troops should return to Kalyán and Bombay for the rains. On the 15th of April Goddard began his march to Bombay; and very perilous was his state. His march lay through "thick jungles, deep hollows, and broken ground;" and the noise and flashing of their musketry, and the smoke bursting up through the foliage, was the first intimation the English General got of the presence of the enemy. Officers and men fell fast as they marched through a path of bullets. Now and then the troops were formed to attack the enemy where they appeared to have collected in greatest numbers. But they quickly dispersed, and took up another position by which they could harass our flanks. Goddard's position was indeed critical in the extreme; but with

unyielding resolution he continued the march until he reached the village of Panvel. His loss was heavy. Including European officers it amounted to twenty-eight killed and two hundred and sixty-seven wounded (p. 450).

In September 1781 Lord Macartney, Sir Eyre Coote, Sir Edward Hughes, and Mr. McPherson wrote a letter to the Peshwa in which they informed him that they had orders "to settle immediately a peace and establish a treaty of friendship with your Government, which will be ratified by the King and Parliament of Great Britain, and which cannot be altered or infringed by any Sardárs or servants of the Company." The Government of Fort George also requested that all hostilities should cease on the part of the Bombay Government. The Bombay Government replied that they were not apprised of what particular or special powers the Madras authorities might be collectively invested with, and that for some months a virtual cessation of arms had existed. Early in the year Captain Watherstone was sent to Poona to negotiate a treaty, but shortly afterwards a letter was received from Warren Hastings which led to his recall. The Governor General wrote: "I now inform you that a treaty of peace being concluded with Mahádji Sindia, who has offered to be the mediator between our Government and that of Poona, I have made choice of Mr. D. Anderson to be the Minister Plenipotentiary for the Company to negotiate and conclude a final peace and treaty of alliance with the Marátha Government" (p. 467). A few months afterwards Mr. Anderson concluded the Treaty of Sálbái with Sindia, but Nána delayed signing it till the 20th of December after he had received the intelligence of the death of Hyder. The chief provisions of the treaty were that the English were to abstain from the support and protection of Rághoba, who was to receive a pension from the Peshwa and reside where he liked; all territories conquered from the Peshwa subsequent to the conclusion of the Treaty of Purandhar were to be restored; the Nizám and Hyder Alli were also to restore the territories they had taken from the English; all Europeans, except the English and Portuguese, were to be excluded from the Marátha dominions. Broach was given to Sindia for his humanity to the English after the convention of Wargaon, and he became guarantee for the due fulfilment of the treaty by the contracting parties. Rághoba, the cause of years of unprofitable war and the loss of many valuable lives, survived the death-blow of his ambitious hopes only a few months.

A short time after the final conclusion of the Treaty of Sálbái an event took place which for a time threatened to disturb the new peace which had been established, and which will be of interest to Englishmen so long as heroic courage is reverenced. The *Ranger*, a small brig of twelve guns, under the command of Lieutenant Pruen, was on its way to Calicut, when the Marátha fleet was seen approaching the vessel. Brigadier-General Norman Macleod was on board with his staff. They were officers of the King's service, and it is said they were fond of taunting Pruen as to the size of his vessel and its fighting capacity. He expressed a hope that the opportunity would occur for him to show the "soldiers' officers" how a Company's cruiser could fight. In such a temper he met the Marátha fleet and determined to stake life and fame to prove the valour of his crew. The fight was long and fierce. The shot fell thick. The assailants boarded by hundreds. The deck was strewn with dead and dying. Then Pruen turned to the King's officers and asked if the *Ranger* and her crew could fight. At last, when all had been either killed or wounded, he struck his colours, urged by the powerful motive of saving the lives of those that had nobly fought from an inevitable and sure destruction. The following letter written by the gallant Pruen to the Bombay Government gives a graphic account of the fight:—

"HON'BLE SIR,—You will not think it necessary I should inform you our late misfortune has afflicted and much concerned me, not only for the distress of individuals, but for the considerable loss the public is likely to sustain at this critical time.

The great superiority of the enemy in ships, guns, and men, after a close engagement of 4 hours and a half, made it indispensably necessary, situated as I was then, to strike to their superior power. It will, I hope, appear the honor of the British flag has not been impaired by the action, or the Company's vessel given away, before every effort in my power was exerted to protect and defend her, an account of which I shall endeavour to transmit to you, as well as so complicated an engagement, and the space of time that ensued before I had it in my power to minute a single transaction, will admit.

Tuesday, April the 8th.—At sun-rise two sails to the south-west and soon after several others; at 9 we could perceive they were Maráthás, consisting of 2 large grab ships, 1 ketch and 8 gallivats, steering for us with studding sails set; immediately every necessary precaution was taken and disposition made for defence; ¼ past the colours were hoisted, the courses hauled up, and directions given to the large battella to keep close under our stern, and the other three, small ones, upon our lee-quarter. At this time we were to the southward of Rájápur island, in 10 fathoms, upon a wind laying up S.W. with a light breeze at south. The gallivats, being the leading vessels, were the first that attacked us, firing the prow guns as they were coming down; and on their nearer approach the guns mounted on their side; these we paid no attention to, though several of their shot passed through our sails, &c.; our fire was reserved till the grape could reach them; the ketch and ships following the example of the gallivats in giving us their prow guns in coming down, which were pointed in a good direction, but too high.

At 10 the ketch, mounting 16 sixes and 2 twelves, brought to on our larboard bow and gave us her broadside. We did not think her near enough, therefore our fire was still reserved; but, as she kept edging down a few minutes, brought on the action with round and grape and small arms upon the forecastle. Our fire would soon have silenced hers had she not been supported by their Commodore, or Subhedár, Anandráv, in a ship of 22 twelves and 2 eighteens, who brought to on our larboard bow. Our attention was now taken up with him, and the engagement continued till ½ past 1, as fast as we could load and fire. Once I observed they were both in one, which opportunity we did not neglect; but in general the ketch kept on the bow. A gun now and then with the musketry from the forecastle plied her; those on the quarter deck, under Major Shaw, and Lieutenant Taylor, were employed against the Commodore's ship. As they kept to windward it was not in my power to be so near them as I could have wished; but, as their small shot flew over us imagine ours must reach them. In this situation they continued to return our fire, backing and filling their topsails as they shot ahead or dropt astern. About 1 the second in command, in a ship of 20 twelves and 2 eighteens, that had been at a great distance at the commencement, was now, very fortunate for them, entered into the action, as we could perceive the fire of the two first to have greatly slackened. During the whole of this time we were lucky in not having any of their shot to strike our hull, though they appeared to fly almost in all directions. From these we were opposed to and from the gallivats. Three of our guns were now in a disabled state by the axle-trees breaking, and required much labour and time to work them. I was therefore induced, before they perceived our distress, to wear, notwithstanding the danger we were exposed to of being raked fore and aft, their position putting it greatly in their power; however no bad consequences ensued, though they availed themselves of the opportunity. While in the act of wearing the small arms on the quarter deck did excellent service by driving them from the guns of one ship, whose broadside was fairly presented to our stern when we came to the wind on the other tack which had shifted to the westward. It brought them on our starboard quarter, and we received their case and bow guns, without being able to make any return that would be detrimental or prevent them cannonading us. In this situation I conceived it most prudent to hasten the action and bring it on a second time as soon as possible. The main topsail was therefore hove to the mast, which brought up in less than 10 minutes the last ship that entered into the action upon the starboard bow, who gave us her broadside within musket shot; this was briskly returned and repeated for about 15 minutes, which obliged her to fill and shoot upon the bow. In the meantime their Commodore had boarded us upon the quarter with his yards locked in with the after part of our rigging and was bravely repulsed, and their men prevented entering by the party on the quarter deck; the ketch shooting ahead of her boarded us at the chest tree; and the ship that had just past, veering round, boarded us nearly at the same time upon the bow. No use now could be made of great guns, two of the enemy being wedged close to us with their sails aback and their sterns end on upon the bow. The engagement was carried on by musketry on both sides; on ours from the main deck, quarter deck and forecastle by the European servants; upon the main deck under Lieutenant Stuart. Lieutenant Taylor was, on the appearance of our being boarded, detached from the quarter deck to defend the forecastle, which post he maintained against numbers, till he fell by a shot passing through his groin. Colonel Macleod

who had been with me on the quarter deck from the commencement of the action, and had, though I was not then acquainted with it, received two shots in his left arm, yet this did not prevent him, when I pointed out to him the situation of the forecastle, from running forward, which was on the point of being carried by the enemy from the prow of the ship, who were ready to jump on board: this place he nobly defended, supported by a few, with his sword in his right hand, till he received a third shot through his body.

The brave Major Shaw was now lying dead at my feet with 3 sepoys, the man at the helm with four sepoys and 2 lascars wounded, and one sepoy terribly burnt by the quarters being on fire; however it was soon put out, and no other accident attended it.

Colonel Humberston who had renderd me every service, first at the great guns, and latterly at the small arms, was now about this time, ½ past 2, shot through the body as he was running along the booms to regain the forecastle and fell upon the main deck. The loss of these gallant officers was an irreparable one to me. The enemy's force forward had drove our people to the main deck, where and from the quarter deck the firing was continued, and prevented them, notwithstanding their numbers, from entering.

About this time, 20 minutes after 2, I perceived the ship upon the quarter to be cut, and she went off a small distance; there was one still on board of us forward, and the ketch upon the bow; no effort of ours could clear us of them, had any been made. In this situation the firing was kept up some time longer; but from the number of killed, and wounded, and unserviceable firelocks ours was considerably reduced. This put new life and vigour into the enemy and made them crowd their prows during the interval of our firing; yet they had not courage to put their threats into execution; but our situation was now become so critical that it was too evident we must be carried by another united attack, should those alongside not perceive the few they were opposed to previous to their being joined by their Commodore, who was within pistol shot. Our force consisted at this time of 5 muskets upon the quarter deck and two upon the main.

I was therefore induced to strike, urged by the powerful motive of saving the lives of those that had nobly fought and behaved themselves gallantly in this action, from an inevitable and sure destruction; but this had not at all the effect I conceived it would; for the instant the colours were down, they rushed on board like furies, and paid no regard to person or condition they were in. Lieutenant Stuart they cut in a most inhuman manner upon the main deck; and all whom they met a stroke with the sword was aimed at them; wounded gentlemen in the cabin, lying upon deck covered with blood were menaced; and with difficulty were they prevailed with not to cut them with their swords or thrust their lances into them; two Europeans were cruelly cut in the shoulder and arm with one lascar and a sepoy: these had been wounded before, except one. Most of the other Europeans, lascars, and sepoys jumped over board on their first entering to avoid immediate death.

On the quarter deck they were acting the same scene: one European they cut down the shoulder; Lieutenant Seton in endeavouring to ward off the blow received it on his left arm; a stroke was made at my head, but fortunately I only received a small cut upon my right shoulders.

When the fury and rage the opium or bháng had put them into was somewhat abated, their next business was plunder; in this as little mercy was shown as the treatment we had experienced of our persons; the wounded were stripped of every thing that was valuable, and to some they did not even leave a shirt.

Such cruelty and inhumanity to persons in their condition could hardly be equalled; their deplorable situation that night and the next day and following day cannot be described.

After they had cleared the ship and ketch that was on board of us, a rope was made fast to the vessel from the second in command and towed into Gheriah, where they anchored at 9 that night above the fort.

I despair doing justice to the gallant behaviour of Colonel Macleod and Colonel Humberston, whose presence and example greatly animated the whole crew; Lieutenant Seton was also indefatigable and did essential service in his department of the great guns; Lieutenant Taylor's defence of the forecastle entitles him to be particularly mentioned; indeed great assistance I received from all the gentlemen as I did also from their European servants.

The *Ranger's* loss in the action was 5 killed and 25 wounded, most of whom are in a fair way of recovery. The damage she has sustained does not appear to me at present to be considerable, though I have not yet had it in my power to examine. The main top mast and gaff are shot through, most of the ports on the starboard side wrenched off, and the conversing plank in the gunnel loose up. The sails, those aloft as well as those in the netting, in a very ragged condition, with some of the standing and running rigging cut.

The enemy's loss I am informed is 16 killed and 43 wounded, 4 of the former were principal men.

I have had several conferences with the Subhedár, which shall be the subject of another letter, as I have great hopes of being able to despatch this away to you immediately; however the results of the whole of them are that we must have patience till answers can be received to his account of the transaction from Poona.

My situation and the manner I have been obliged to write will, I hope, excuse the disrespectful appearance of my letter. The enclosed is a return of the killed and wounded with a list of the Marátha fleet.

I am, with respect, &c.,
(Signed) ASHMEAD PRUEN.

"Ranger" in Gheria River, 11th April 1783.

Return of the killed and wounded on board the "Ranger" April 8th.

Killed	Wounded
1 Major Shaw.	1 Colonel Macleod.
3 Sepoys.	1 Colonel Humberston.
1 Topass.	1 Lieutenant Stewart.
—	1 Lieutenant Taylor.
5 killed.	2 European seamen.
	3 Do. servants.
	7 Lascars.
	1 Naique.
	5 Sepoys.
	1 Servant.
	—
	23 wounded.

(Signed) A. PRUEN.

A List of the Marátha Fleet.

Commanders.	Ships.	Guns.		
		17s	..	18s
Anandráv drew ...	"Narrain Paul." ...	22		2
		do.	..	do.
" " ...	"Madow Paul." ...	20		2
		6s	..	do.
" " ...	"Rampersut." ...	16		2s

Eight gallivats, at 2 to 5 guns each.

(Signed) A. PRUEN."

Three years after the Treaty of Salbai had been signed, Mr. Charles Warre Malet was sent on a mission to Mahádji Sindia, who was at that time the most powerful sovereign in India. He had reseated the Mogal Emperor on the imperial throne, and the whole of the imperial dominions were under his sway. It is true he held them as the Peshwa's deputy but these very conquests gave him full control over his nominal master. The aim of the mission acknowledged Sindia's supremacy. It was despatched to gain his consent to a permanent Resident being appointed at the Court of Poona. The embassy left Surat on the 15th March 1785. It proceeded by Baroda, "situated in a beautiful plain," and Champaner; and, nine miles from the stupendous mountain of Powaghur, "entered the dominions of Sindia." Mr. Malet describes the country as "well cultivated, beautiful, and picturesque: the soil light and neat, producing sugar-cane, bájri and rice, and even at this season of the year fresh and verdant, to be accounted for in the numerous little gullies and rivulets, and the benefit of the shade of the most beautiful trees." From Mullao the mission marched through the heart of Central India to Ujjein, "the capital of Mahádji Sindia's dominions." The envoy gives an interesting and minute account of the country through which he passed, and of the native princes he met, and from his diary we gain a glimpse of India as it was a century ago. Near Barria the road ran through a wild forest, much infested with banditti. The Raja, "though in a situation which would ensure impunity were he inclined to molest travellers, has fallen on the more eligible method of fixing regular imposts, whence arises a revenue, which he employs in curbing the Bhils and preserving

to the utmost of his power the peace of the road." He found Petlawad, "formerly a great mart for the goods of Málva and Gujarát," very much decayed, "as most of the whole country from the present state of its government; for the Maráthás have neither conciliated nor reduced the independent Zamíndárs, of which the whole country seems full since passing Barria, and who seem particularly disaffected to the Marátha Government." After a few weeks' journey the mission reached Ujjein, the capital of Mahádji Sindia's dominions. The envoy describes the town as containing "many good buildings," and "the great street is very straight, broad, regularly built and well paved with stone." He was evidently much struck with the Ghere Shake Mehl. This, Mr. Malet writes, "is a most extraordinary place, a large gloomy edifice of peculiar strength, and still in very good repair, erected on an artificial island, formed for the purpose by a diversion of the stream of the Sipra, and connected with the western bank by a handsome flat bridge. In the western stream, which I conceive to be the artificial one, is a surprising multitude of various apartments situated on a level with the water, and in the midst thereof; the water being conveyed round them in various forms, into several reservoirs, constructed for its reception, whence again it is conveyed by proper outlets to the bed of the river, into which it discharges itself in falls, and little artificial cascades, that have a pleasing effect. The whole of these buildings, which must have been constructed before the bank was cut, must be overflowed in the rains, but are of such astonishing strength as to remain still in high preservation: they are most admirably calculated for coolness, the rings are still remaining in each apartment, to which were fixed curtains formed of a certain aromatic root, called kuss, which being wetted gives a most delicious coolness to the entering air. On the western side of the river two large spaces of ground are inclosed, the wall now in ruins; the innermost I conceive to have been a garden, the other, about three miles in extent, a park." On the 2nd of May the Mission reached the fortress of Gwalior, "esteemed one of the strongest in Hindustán." Malet found the city almost depopulated by "the terrible famine that prevailed for two years in those parts, the effects of which are visible in the vast quantities of human bones and skulls scattered over the country, but more particularly near towns and villages." The whole country between Gwalior and Agra he describes "as a dismal proof of the tremendous severity of the late famine." "The wretched remains of the inhabitants seem reduced to a state of stupid inactivity; and perching themselves on the roofless ruins of their habitations seem rather lost in the contemplation of their misery than inclined to remedy it by labour and exertion." At Agra, or Akberábád, as it was then called, Mr. Malet had quarters allotted to him by Sindia in the immortal Taj. He regarded it, both in point of design and execution, "one of the most perfect works that was ever undertaken and finished by one man", and generations of travellers since his diary have confirmed the verdict. "It has", he writes, "rather the appearance of an ivory model just delivered out of the artist's hands than an edifice that has withstood the inclemencies of one hundred and fifty-seven years." From Agra Mr. Malet proceeded to Muttra, where Mahádji Sindia was encamped. He had an interview with the Prince and found him extremely courteous. He also paid a visit to Sháh Állum the Moghal Emperor. Only forty years had elapsed since the day when the Marátha plunderers first descended from their mountains, and now the Mogal Emperor was a humble dependant in the camp of a Marátha chieftain. The great and victorious empire which Baber founded, and Aurangzeb raised to the zenith of greatness, had by bigotry and misgovernment been brought to ruin. The envoy found the Emperor seated on a silver throne placed in a common sized tent. "I made His Majesty a present consisting of gold mohars, cloths of various kinds, and some curiosities in agate, glass, and filigree, which he seemed to admire, though it is contrary to the system of Mogal dignity to show any lively marks of approbation; and in this systematic observance of rules, which are still kept up, consists the whole of His

Majesty's royalty; for that real dignity, that multitude of powerful Ameers, that abundance of wealth, that splendid and precise arrangement which characterized the courts of former princes, are now no more. His Majesty ordered me to be invested with a habit, which was accompanied with jewels for the turban, which he bound on himself round my hat; he then ordered a bridle and an *ankusk*, the instrument for driving an elephant, to be presented to me, that being the method of conferring the honor of horse and elephant. Having made the usual observances for these marks of royal favour, His Majesty descended from his throne, and we, following him, took our leave." Not getting any definite instructions from Calcutta regarding the negotiations, Mr. Malet returned from Sindiá's camp to Agra, and after residing in that city for a few weeks he proceeded to Cawnpore, "the most remote of the Company's fixed military stations." In August he reached Calcutta and had an interview with the Governor General, but could not get from him any decisive answer as to his appointment to the Court at Poona, though Sindia had given his consent to the arrangement. Three months passed before he got "the instructions and credentials of the Honorable the Governor General and Council to act as their Minister at the Peshwa's Darbár."

Mr. Malet was for some years envoy at the Court of Poona, and proved himself a most expert displomatist. When the aggression of Tipu forced Lord Cornwallis into a war Mr. Malet negotiated and concluded the offensive and defensive alliance formed with the Nizám and the Peshwa. The first campaign against the sovereign of Mysore was neither brilliant nor eminently successful, and Lord Cornwallis therefore determined to conduct the second himself. He proceeded to Madras and took command of the army. Mysore was invaded, Bangalore was captured, within sight of Seringapatam a battle was fought, and Tipu sustained a crushing defeat. But owing to the want of supplies Lord Cornwallis could make no use of his victory, and was obliged to return to Bangalore. He employed the remainder of the year in reducing the stupendous mountain fortresses of Mysore. The most famous of them was Savandroog. It commanded the communication between Bangalore and Seringapatam, and was deemed impregnable. Lord Cornwallis determined to take it at all hazard. Tipu rejoiced when he heard of his resolve. One-half of the English army he declared would perish by sickness, the other half by the sword. On the 10th of December 1791 our troops appeared before the fortress, and eleven days afterwards it was carried by assault. On the 10th January 1792 Mr. Malet forwarded to the Bombay Government an extract from a private letter describing the assault. The writer informs us "that Lord Cornwallis sitting in one of the batteries was a witness to the courage of his own troops" (p. 533). The packet which contained the extract describing the capture of Savandroog also contained Captain Little's account of his action with a large body of the enemy. No one by reading that modest letter would guess it describes one of the most brilliant battles of the whole compaign. The enemy's force numbered ten thousand: the Bombay detachment seven hundred and fifty bayonets and two guns. The position chosen by the enemy could not have been stronger. His right was protected by a river, his left by hills, covered with jungle, which approached within a mile of the river; his rear was secured by an impenetrable jungle, and a deep ravine protected his front. Lieutenant Moore, who was wounded in the action and wrote a graphic account of the campaign, informs us that, "The open space on which the enemy had pitched their camp, was not more than six hundred yards wide, and was upon the whole naturally the strongest place we ever saw; nor can we form an idea of one more disadvantageous to an assault. Had their situation been accurately known no one but an officer who had the most unlimited confidence in his troops could, in prudence, have hazarded an attack." At first the contest was doubtful. "The extreme thickness of the jungle, while it afforded the enemy the advantage of a deliberate aim at our European officers, broke our troops, and when they penetrated through it in small

numbers to the plain they were two or three times driven back." It was not till after a contest of two hours that an effectual impression was made on the enemy. "The English pursued them through the woods and captured six of their guns." A week afterwards Captain Little informs the Governor General of the surrender of Samago. In February 1792 Lord Cornwallis laid siege to Seringapatam. Tipu had strengthened the defence of his capital by a series of earthworks protected by three hundred cannon. These works were gallantly stormed, and Tipu, seeing further defence was hopeless, determined to throw himself upon the generosity and clemency of his conqueror. On the 19th of March a definite treaty of peace was concluded. One-third of the territories conquered were given to the Peshwa. A further grant of territory was also offered to him if he would make a similar treaty of offensive and defensive alliance as the Nizám had done, but owing to the influence of Sindia the proposal was rejected. Sindia had won the goodwill of the Peshwa, and he was on the point of overthrowing the influence of Nána Fadanavis when death put an end to his ambitious career. After Shiváji he ranks as the most popular and national of Marátha heroes. He took pride in the humble origin of his race, and had a deep veneration for the ancient institutions of his native land. It was said by his countrymen "that Mahádji Sindia made himself the sovereign of an empire by calling himself a Pátel" or headman of a village. His personal tastes were those rather of the mountain warriors of the Deccan than of a great prince. He cared not for the trappings of state, but he loved power. He was not only a successful conqueror, but a wise ruler of the countries he subdued. The chief object throughout his life was to make the Marátha federation supreme on the continent; and he did not love the English, because he naturally looked with serious alarm on their growing power.

The death of Mahádji Sindia made Nána Fadanavis supreme at the Court of Poona. The members of the Marátha Confederation now became jealous not only of the growing power of the English but of their ally the Nizám. An old demand for chauth was revived. The Nizám earnestly solicited the interference of the English, but Sir John Shore refused any aid. He did not think loss of prestige could be placed "in competition with the greater evils likely to attend a war with the Marátha and Tipu Sultán." It required the genius and courage of Wellesley to revive among the native princes a reliance in our faith and dread of our arms. And he had to fight both Tipu and the Maráthás. Nána Fadanavis, on hearing that the English would not interfere, pressed the claims of the Peshwa. The demands of the Marátha envoy were rejected with scorn. Both sides prepared for war. On the 12th March 1795 Mr. Malet announced (p. 538) to the Governor General the result of the battle of Kharda. The Nizám's army was routed. A few days afterwards he consented to the humiliating terms on which alone the Maráthás would make peace.

The victory of Kharda was followed by a sad tragedy. On the 27th October 1795 the Resident at Poona writes to the Bombay Government to inform them that the young Peshwa "in a temporary fit of delirium jumped, or fell, from an upper room or terrace into a fountain below." The envoy offered the unfortunate prince the aid of his own Surgeon, but "though these people are very frank in their acknowledgment of the skill and success of European medical men, yet, strange to say, between political and religious jealousy and distrust, the principal Bráhmans here are very averse to avail themselves of their services, though numbers of the lower class of people have every day, for near ten years past that this Residency has been established, benefited by the liberal assistance of our Surgeons Messrs. Cruso and Findlay." On the 29th October the Assistant to the Resident writes to inform the Governor General "that the Peshwa died on the 27th, and that the corpse was burnt in the course of the night at one of the places in town on the banks of the river, where the funeral obsequies of Bráhmans are usually performed." He also intimates to the Governor General that he is inclined

to think that Nána, if he could gain the consent of the other Marátha Chieftains, would "set aside Bájiráv." The Resident seems to have memorialised Nána on this subject, and was told in reply "that whatever shall be resolved on by my counsels and the mighty Chieftains shall, with friendly cordiality, be communicated by this State." We are informed that on the 3rd of December the insignia of Peshwaship arrived from the Rája of Sátára, "with which Bájiráv was invested at midnight."

In May 1798 Lord Mornington arrived in India as fourth Governor General. He informed the Peshwa in a letter, dated 21st May, of having taken over charge of the affairs of the Honorable Company, and added, "I am happy in the present opportunity of assuring you that it will always be my study to cultivate and improve the harmony subsisting between the two States, to establish the utmost degree of individual friendship and attachment with you, and to maintain the Company's reputation, and seek the confidence of all the princes and chiefs of Hindustán, by a strict attention to the principle of justice and good faith, and adherence to engagements" (p. 611). The native chiefs, however, had lost their old belief in our adherence to engagements, by Sir John Shore's refusal to aid the Nizám in the hour of need. After his defeat at Kharda that sovereign incensed by the absolute neutrality of the Governor General, disbanded the English which had been attached to him and increased the forces under the command of M. Raymond, a French soldier of fortune. At the time when Lord Mornington assumed office the very existence of the British Empire in India was threatened with grave danger. Tipu, the Nizám, and Sindia were all under French influence, and their armies chiefly officered by Frenchmen. The Nizám's forces under M. Raymond were 15,000 strong, with an efficient park of artillery: Sindia's forces under De Borgne were at least 40,000 men, in the highest state of discipline and efficiency, supported by more than four hundred guns. A Jacobin Club had been organized at Seringapatam. It was not beyond the bounds of probability that all the French commanders might unite to strike a deadly blow at the power of the English in the East. Lord Mornington therefore determined to destroy the chance of a federation. By a stroke of daring and genius he had the French force at Hyderabad disbanded, and a corps of British troops, paid by the Nizám and officered by Europeans, substituted for it. Lord Mornington was desirous of concluding a similar treaty with the Peshwa, and having a British detachment stationed at Poona. He wrote to the Governor of Bombay that he had authorized the Resident to apply to him for a military force to be marched directly to Poona. "We are fully aware of the objections even to a temporary diminution of the force on your establishment, but when we acquaint you that the permanent security of the British possessions in India is essentially concerned in the measures which we are now concerting with the Courts of Poona and Hyderabad, and that the success of those measures will become impracticable unless the force which may be required by Colonel Palmer shall reach Poona with all possible expedition, we are confident that you will not suffer so important an arrangement to be frustrated by any difficulty which is not absolutely insuperable" (p. 612). The Peshwa, however, at the instigation of Nána, rejected the proferred treaty, but gave a solemn assurance of his fidelity to existing engagements. Lord Mornington felt that the time had come when some decisive action must be taken against Tipu, whose attitude towards the English grew more hostile every day. The Governor General was also aware of his intrigue with Bonaparte, who was at that time in Egypt, and he addressed him a letter pointing out that the French alliance was a menace to the English, which could not be permitted. Lord Mornington then proceeded to Madras, where Tipu's reply was to be brought to him. The day he landed at that town, 31st December 1798, he wrote to the Peshwa to inform him of the destruction of the French fleet at Alexandria (p. 616). Lord Mornington sent the same information to Tipu; but nothing could shake his belief in the value of the French

alliance, and he continued deaf to all appeals addressed to him. After a month spent in trying to bring him to reason, Lord Mornington wrote to the Resident at Poona to "apprise His Highness the Peshwa and Nána Fadanavis that the obstinate silence of the Sultán compels me to treat him as an enemy; and that, considering the Hon'ble Company to be in a state of war with him from this day, I shall accordingly direct our armies to enter his territories without further delay" (p. 620). He wrote to Davlatráv Sindia, "Influenced by no motives of ambition, anxious to maintain the relations of amity and concord with all the powers around them, and secure the internal peace and tranquillity of their own dominions, by a strict observance of the obligations of treaty and the rights of nations, the Company and their allies have strictly adhered to these principles throughout their intercourse with Tipu Sultán, and with the most patient forbearance have continued to adopt every conciliating means of accommodation under circumstances that would have justified an immediate appeal to arms. But these efforts have proved fruitless, and they are at length most unwillingly compelled to this issue as the only means now left to secure to them the future peaceable possession of their territory, their happiness, and their honor" (p. 623). Though the Peshwa had promised to help against Tipu, the envoys of that monarch were publicly received at Poona after hostilities commenced. The Marátha force which was to co-operate with the English was kept inactive. Lord Mornington wrote to the Resident at Poona, "You will signify to the Peshwa that the objects which I had in view in consenting to a detachment of Company's troops acting with his contingent cannot possibly be attained while he shall entertain Vakils from the common enemy." The Vakils were dismissed, but they retired only a few miles from Poona. The weak and treacherous Bájiráv wished to aid Tipu, but fear checked him. After much vacillation he settled a scheme with Sindia for attacking the Nizám. Tidings of their treacherous designs reached the Governor General, and he wrote to the Resident at Hyderabad, "You will immediately assure the Nizám, and Azim-ul-Omrah, at a private audience, of my determination not only to support His Highness, whenever circumstances shall admit, with the whole force of the Company against any power whatsoever, which shall desire to disturb His Highness's dominions, while he is engaged in the faithful and zealous discharge of his engagements to the British Government, but also to join with His Highness in inflicting the most signal chastisement on the aggressor" (p. 627).

Before the Peshwa and Sindia could put their treacherous scheme into execution they received a letter from Lord Mornington, in which he expressed "the utmost satisfaction in communicating the glorious intelligence of the capture of Seringapatam, which was taken by assault on the 4th of May with a very inconsiderable loss on the part of the allies." On the same day Lord Mornington wrote to the Resident at Poona, "It is necessary to apprise you that I do not intend to admit the Peshwa to an equal participation with the Company and the Nizám in the advantages resulting from our late success at Seringapatam. In strict justice he is entitled to no share whatever in these advantages. * * * Considerations of policy will, however, incline me to extend the benefit acquired by the joint efforts of the Company and of the Nizám even to this faithless ally" (p. 628). A share of the conquered territories was offered to the Peshwa, on condition that the grant should form the basis of a subsidiary treaty, like that concluded between the English and the Nizám. But, under the influence of Sindia, the offer was rejected. The presence of English troops at Poona, it was considered, would be the death-blow to Marátha independence. The death of Nána Fadanavis a few months afterwards, however, sealed the ruin of the Marátha Confederacy. The Marquess of Wellesley, for he had been raised to that title after the capture of Seringapatam, wrote to the Peshwa, "I have received with great concern the intelligence of the much lamented death of Báláji Pandit (Nána Fadanavis). The loss of persons distinguished for their talents, great

qualities, and ablities is at all times a subject of regret. The melancholy news, therefore, of the death of Báláji Pandit, the able Minister of your State, whose upright principles and honorable views, and whose zeal for the welfare and prosperity both of the dominions of his own immediate superiors and of other powers, were so justly celebrated, occasions extreme grief and concern."

After the death of Nána Fadanavis civil war raged throughout the country. Sindia and Holkar were engaged in hostilities, and the Peshwa espoused the cause of the former. Vithoji Holkar, brother of the Marátha Chief, fell into Bájiráv's hands, and he caused him to be executed in his presence by being dragged along the ground, tied to the foot of an elephant. This cruel murder took place in the spring of 1801, and on the 26th October 1802 the Resident at Poona announces that "the action of yesterday, between Holkar's army and that under Sadáshiv Bháu, commenced with a warm cannonade about half-past nine, and lasted with great vigour till twelve, when the cavalry of the former chieftain, having made a general charge, repelled the cavalry of the enemy, and cutting in upon the line of the infantry obtained a complete victory" (p. 550). Four days afterwards the Governor of Bombay received a letter from Bájiráv stating that he had sought an "asylum" in British territory (p. 551). It was decided to consult Major Malcolm, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General, who was at that time in Bombay, inquiring into the death of the Persian Ambassador, as to what measures it was advisable to pursue. Major Malcolm in reply sent a most clear and able letter reviewing the situation of affairs, which is now printed for the first time (p. 553). After full and mature consideration, the Honorable Mr. Jonathan Duncan wrote to the Peshwa to inform him that "it is well known to your Highness that all political arrangements are conducted by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General from Bengal, and that otherwise than under his instructions, or subject to his approbation, no conditions under my seal and signature would be binding on the British nation in India* * * . The Government of Bombay will, however, have a pleasure on all occasions in treating your Highness with the respect and attention due to a prince of the exalted rank of your Highness, who is also an ally of the British nation" (p. 557).

Holkar was desirous that his kinsman Amrutráv, the adopted son of Rághoba, should be raised to the throne. On the 5th November Amrutráv entered Poona, and "was received with great honors by Holkar." He was, however, not anxious to usurp the throne, and expressed the utmost desire that Bájiráv should be persuaded to return. Holkar, finding that all chance of seizing the Peshwa's person was hopeless, and fearing that Bájiráv would seek British aid to regain the sovereignty, professed to desire nothing more ardently than British mediation. Colonel Close informs Lord Wellesley, "at this interview Holkar treated us with peculiar attention. In a separate apartment, where Mr. Strachey was present, he spoke of his wish to accommodate with the Peshwa, who, he said, obstinately slighted him and countenanced Sindia, although his house was as old as Sindiá's and at least of equal rank. He said repeatedly that he wished to have me as his friend, and consulted whether I could not be useful to him in bringing about an accommodation between him and the Peshwa. I told him that I thought it would be mutually for their interests to accommodate, but that unless both parties were to agree to refer their differences to me it would not be possible for me to be of any use to either. He then asked me whether, if the Peshwa was to agree that I should arbitrate between them, I would return to Poona for the purpose? I said I certainly could not return to Poona, but under your Lordship's instructions; but that, should such an occurrence arise, I should address your Lordship and take your sentiments on the subject. But should I fail (he said) to adjust with the Peshwa, what is to happen then? I replied smiling that I did not imagine he was at any time very solicitous about future events, which he apparently took as a compliment." Colonel Close, acting on instructions from Fort William, quitted the Residency

for Bombay. He was also informed by the Governor General "that with respect to the justice of supporting the cause of Bájiráv under the engagement which has already been contracted with him no question can arise. In such state of circumstances, therefore, His Excellency would not hesitate to employ every effort of the British power in the reinstatement of Bájiráv on the masnad of Poona." On the 10th of December Bájiráv arrived at Bombay, and, after a conference with the Governor, embarked for Bassein, where he was met by Colonel Close on landing. On the last day of the year the Treaty of Bassein was signed. The Peshwa was to be restored by the English to his throne. He was to receive a subsidiary force of six battalions under English officers, with a suitable complement of artillery, and for their maintenance he was to cede districts yielding twenty-six lákhs of rupees. He bound himself not to engage in hostilities, nor even to negotiate with other states, without the permission of the British Government. On the 11th May 1803 the following garrison order was issued by the Hon'ble the Governor, "A salute of 19 guns to be fired on the 13th instant on the happy occasion of the entry of His Highness the Peshwa into his capital of Poona, and of his restoration to the masnad."

Neither Sindia, nor Holkar, nor any of the great Marátha Chiefs could tolerate the Peshwa having signed away the Marátha independence. Bálájiráv they despised, and they were willing to usurp his power, but the reverence for the office had not departed. A strong love for the old hereditary office was the spirit which animated all the Maráthás. Mahádji Sindia when sovereign of Hindustán took pride in carrying the Peshwa's slippers. "This is my occupation," he said ; it was that of my father". The restoration of the Peshwa by British bayonets wounded the national pride. But it was of vital importance to the English Empire that there should be a settled Government at Poona. We were now bound by treaty to protect the territories of Mysore and of the Nizám, and this could only be done by obtaining a commanding influence at the Capital of the Deccan. Sindia and Holkar had made the territories of the Peshwa their theatre of war, and laid them waste. Want alone might compel their troops to invade the more fertile lands of their neighbours. As long as Sindia kept an army in the Deccan we must have a strong force to watch him. The Duke of Wellington wrote : "The most expensive article in India is an army in the field; and the most useless is one destined to act upon the defensive."

The first result of the restoration of the Peshwa was the flight of Holkar from Poona. There was a momentary gleam of hope that order would be restored to the land without war. The southern chiefs paid their obeisance to the Peshwa. The Resident at the Court of Sindia read to Davlatráv the chief text of the Treaty of Bassein. He owned it contained nothing to which he could object; but both Davlatráv Sindia and the Rája of Berár refused to acquiesce in the proposal "that the former should immediately recross the Narbada with his army and the latter return to Nágpur." General Wellesley was now invested by the Governer General with full powers to make peace or declare war. He wrote to the Resident at the Court of Poona to inform Sindia and the Rája of Berár "that, consistently with the principles and uniform practice of the British Government, I am perfectly ready to attend to their interests and to enter into negotiation with them upon objects by which they may suppose their interests to be affected. But they must first withdraw their troops from the position which they have taken up on the Nizám's frontier and return to their usual stations in Hindustán and Berár respectively, and on my part I will withdraw the Company's troops to their usual stations. Sindia and Bhonsla replied "that the armies now assembled here, and those of the English Government and of the Nizám, shall commence their return upon the same date, and that each of the armies shall arrive at their usual stations on a date previously settled ; that is, that the army of the English and of the Nizám now encamped near Aurangábád, the army of the English encamped near the Kistna, and you also with your army shall all march towards their stations on the same date that the armies move from this encampment; and on the same date that all those

different armies reach their respective stations at Madras, Seringpatam, and Bombay, Sindia and myself will reach Barhánpore." This proposition at first sight seems fair, but the absurdity of the last condition is apparent when we remember that the distance from Ahmednagar, where General Wellesley was then encamped, to Madras was more than a thousand miles, to Seringapatam more than five hundred, and to Bombay more than three hundred; but Barhánpore was only distant about fifty miles from the Nizám's frontier. General Wellesley's answer was eminently characteristic of the man. It was frank and firm. "Your Highness will recollect", he wrote, "that the British Government did not threaten to commence hostilities against you; but you threatened to commence hostilities against the British Government and its allies; and when called on to explain your intentions, you declared it was doubtful whether there would be peace or war; and in conformity with your threats and your declared doubts, you assembled a large army in a station contiguous to the Nizám's frontier. On this ground I called upon you to withdraw that army to its usual station, if your subsequent pacific declarations were sincere; but, instead of complying with this reasonable requisition, you propose that I should withdraw the troops which are intended to defend the territories of our allies against your designs; and that you and the Rája of Berár should be suffered to remain with your troops assembled, in readiness to take advantage of their absence. This proposition is unreasonable and inadmissible, and you must stand the consequences of the measures which I find myself compelled to adopt in order to repel your aggression. I offered you peace on terms of equality, and honorable to all parties: you have chosen war, and are responsible for all consequences." On the 8th August the war began, and on the 19th there reached the Bombay Government a copy of the despatch describing the capture of the fort of Ahmednagar. On the 2nd October was received a letter from General Wellesley announcing in a few simple words the victory of Assaye, which made us masters of India.

G. W. FORREST.

Bombay, August 1885.

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

LETTERS, DESPATCHES, AND OTHER STATE PAPERS PRESERVED IN THE BOMBAY SECRETARIAT.

AN ACCOUNT

OF

SHA'HA'JI AND HIS SON SHIVA'JI.

Bábáji Bhonsla, a *pátil* or headman of the villages of Hingni, Devalgaon, and Bordi in the district of Poona, had two sons, the elder was called Máloji Bhonsla and the younger Vithoji Bhonsla. These two brothers having become dissatisfied with their homes emigrated with their families to the village of Elora in the district of Davlatábád. They there supported themselves by the cultivation of land. After a short time they left their families at Elora and went in quest of service to Sonkher, also situated in the district of Davlatábád. Here they were introduced to Lakhoji, a mansabdár[1] of twelve thousand horse in the army of the Nizám Sháhi. The two brothers, however, were so extremely corpulent that it was impossible to find horses to carry them, and they had to take service with the mansabdár as warders. Their salary was five pagodas[2] a month, which was at that time the ordinary rate of pay. They were also given daily rations by their Chief. After a short time the two brothers brought their families from Elora to Sonkher. There Vithoji Bhonsla the younger brother had eight sons born to him, and of these two only became at all famous, viz., Kheláji and Muláji. The other six were so insignificant that even their names have not been recorded. The elder brother Máloji had at first no children. His wife, therefore, went on a pilgrimage to the tomb of Sháh Shurf, a Musalmán saint, at Ahmadnagar, and prayed that she might be blessed with a son, promising that if the saint answered her prayers she would call the child Sháh Shurf. Her prayer was granted and she brought forth two sons.

The elder was called Sháháji and the younger Shurfji. Sháháji the former was remarkably handsome, and on this account the mansabdár took great notice of him. He gave him valuable clothes and jewels, and frequently took him into his private apartments. Here he allowed him to play with his daughter Jijawa and used to be amused at his infantine tricks. This went on till Sháháji reached the age of five and Jijawa was three. Then one day it came to pass during the season of the Holi that Jádhavráv assembled his Marátha and other troops and all his officers and entertained them with music and dancing. Sháháji and Jijawa were also present, and Jádhavráv took them upon his knees and made them throw *gulál* or red

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[1] Mansabdár was a title or military dignity conferred by the Mogal Government of Delhi upon any nobleman holding a *mansab* or military rank over certain number of horsemen, varying from ten to ten thousand, which, when required, he was bound to bring into the field. Jághírs in land were assigned for the maintenance of this force which very often did not exist. Sometimes the term was applied to a nobleman wholly engaged in the civil service of the State.

[2] In the old records a pagoda is valued at Rs. 3-10.

powder upon those present and upon one another. He then cast his eyes upon the children and, looking towards the company, said: "It has pleased God to make Jijawa as beautiful as the most brilliant jewel, and Sháháji is worthy to be her husband." Máloji and Vithoji Bhonsla, who were seated behind the mansabdár, immediately rose and in a loud voice addressed the company as follows: "We call you all to witness that from this day an alliance has been formed between us and Jádhavráv, and that Jijawa has become the wife of our son, for the word of a man of rank uttered in a public place is never broken." Jádhavráv heard what they said but made no reply, and when the company broke up he seemed absorbed in thought. He retired to his apartments accompanied by his daughter, but he did not, according to his usual custom, take Sháháji along with him.

Before Jádhavráv reached the zenana all that had taken place in the assembly was known to the inmates. On his arrival the women remonstrated with him for admitting Máloji and Vithoji Bhonsla to such a degree of equality as to give his daughter in marriage to their son. They reminded him that the two brothers were Kunbis who had left their country through want and had sought for a livelihood in his service. They asked if all the mansabdárs and deshmukhs[1] of the country had disappeared that he had made such a promise to persons so inferior to him in rank. They wished to know why he did not check their forwardness and retract his unguarded remarks when they called upon the whole company to bear witness to them. Jádhavráv replied that he had only made a casual remark and that he had no intention of carrying it into effect. He pointed out that neither had *pán* been distributed nor had any of the usual betrothal ceremonies been observed, and, therefore, they had no ground for speaking to him in the manner they had done.[2] He further observed that as Máloji and Vithoji Bhonsla had artfully taken advantage of an unguarded expression he would dismiss them from his service.

The next day when dinner was ready Jádhavráv sent for Máloji and Vithoji Bhonsla and invited them to partake of it. They, however, declined to come, and sent him a message that as an alliance had yesterday been concluded between them they could not at present dine with him. They however would do so on the occasion of the celebration of the marriage. When Jádhavráv finished his meal he went into his *kacheri*, and calling one of his clerks he made up the accounts of Máloji and Vithoji Bhonsla and dismissed them from his service. He further informed them that they were not worthy to have his daughter given to their son in marriage, and he desired them to leave the town, accompanied by their wives and daughters, without an hour's delay.

Máloji and Vithoji accordingly removed with their families to the village of Elora. They paid their respects to the head villager and occupied their old quarters. They remained at Elora two or three years engaged in husbandry. The following is the way in which they spent their day: In the morning they bathed and went through their customary devotions.[3] They then had some food. On the eleventh day of each semi-lunation they observed a fast and the succeeding morning they ate only after having bestowed offerings on the

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[1] Deshmukh was a hereditary Native Officer under the former Governments who exercised chief police and revenue authority over a district containing a certain number of villages and was responsible for the revenue. As a compensation for his services he was allowed to hold lands free of rent and was entitled to certain fees and allowances.

[2] Among the Hindus when a betrothal takes place it is customary to hand betelnuts and leaves, sugar and cocoanuts to guests as a token of the marriage having been agreed upon.

[3] The customary devotions of the Maráthás are to bathe the images of their household gods in water and *panchámruta* or the five nectars (milk, curds, clarified butter, sugar and honey); and then to anoint them with sandal paste and decorate them with flowers. Having done this the worshipper burns incense and waves a lighted lamp before the idols and with folded hands implores them to grant him wealth, health and prosperity.

Bráhmans. On the night of the fifteenth of the month of Mágh (January-February), while the brothers were watching a field in which there was a snake-hole, the hand of the goddess Bhawáni adorned with jewels suddenly appeared out of the hole, beckoned to them, and disappeared. As it was a moon-light night, the rapid motion and brilliant appearance of the hand seemed to Máloji to be lightning. He awoke Vithoji, who had gone to sleep, and told him what he had seen. Vithoji would not believe him, and declared that excessive drowsiness had caused him to imagine the vision. He then desired Máloji to fall asleep and said he would watch the crops. Máloji accordingly lay down and, presently, he saw in a vision the goddess Bhawáni standing beside him. She was adorned with pearls and had a white sheet drawn over her head, and her forehead was marked with a red spot. He thought she said unto him—"Awake and arise, I have taken an interest in your concerns, and you must attend to what I say, and act accordingly. There is a hole here in which there is a snake. I have assumed the appearance of that snake. Go to the hole, worship the snake, and do not hurt it. It will move aside, and then, having dug into the hole, you will find seven pots filled with money." The goddess also told Máloji that she had determined to make him and his descendants kings for twenty-seven generations, and whatever he wished would come to pass. She then disappeared. Máloji then awoke and told Vithoji about the vision which he had seen. The two brothers then dug further into the hole and found seven pots full of money. They placed them in a cart and during the night carried them to their house, and having dug a hole at the back, they concealed the money in it.

Having settled all the business regarding the management of their lands they removed their women and children to another house in the village. They themselves went to the village of Shrigonde, generally called Chamargunde, to see an old acquaintance named Sheshawa Náik Ponde, a respectable banker and citizen of that place. They privately communicated to him all that had taken place, and told him it would be well if their wishes could be accomplished through his aid. The banker undertook to accomplish what they desired, but asked them what they would do for him in case they attained to prosperity and power. They told him that they would make him their Treasurer, and that the office should be hereditary as long as their descendants enjoyed power and dominion. They gave the banker a written promise to this effect, and they sanctified it by an oath. The banker then ordered his servants to give them water to wash and to present them with fine clothes, and he afterwards took them in a carriage to a horse market. They then purchased a thousand good horses and had saddles and bridles prepared for them. They also had tents and palanquins constructed and retained *bárgirs* or troopers in their service. They then sent a Vakil to Wannungpál Nimbálkar and to the Phaltankar, two independent Chiefs, who possessed a force of twelve thousand horse and foot and who were always engaged in predatory excursions. Having arranged, also, the necessary formalities they went and paid their respects to the above-named Chiefs. They informed them what they had in view, and asked to be furnished with two thousand troops, and begged that the Chiefs would assist them on all occasions. Wannungpál Nimbálkar and the Phaltankar gave them two thousand horse, and assured them that they might depend on receiving their constant co-operation.

Máloji and Vithoji with the above-mentioned two thousand horse and one thousand horse of their own had a force of three thousand horse, with which they marched in the first instance to the village of Shrigonde. Having left their heavy baggage at that place, they proceeded, lightly equipped, by the Nimbedhera Ghát and town of Nunvasa and crossed the Godávari. That night they killed two hogs and tied a letter to each of them. They then carried them to the mosque near Davlatábád and left them there. The same night they re-crossed the Godávari and found Wannungpál Nimbálkar at Phaltan.

The purport of the letters was that Lakhoji Jádhavráv had, in a public company, promised to give his daughter Jijawa in marriage to their son Sháháji; that Jádhavráv had afterwards retracted what he had said, discharged them from his service, and ordered them and their families to depart; that if the king would interest himself in their concerns it were well, otherwise they would lay dead hogs in every mosque in his dominions. In the morning the people who came to pray in the mosque saw the two dead hogs with a paper tied to each of their necks, and the sight incensed them greatly. They, however, carried the hogs and the papers, just as they found them, into the presence of Nizám Sháh at Davlatábád. As soon as Nizám Sháh learned the purport of the papers, he was displeased at the conduct of Lakhoji Jádhavráv, and immediately despatched some horsemen to Sindkher to summon him to his presence. When the horsemen reached Sindkher Jádhavráv was eating. They, however, did not allow him time even to finish his meal, but immediately carried him off along with them to Davlatábád. On his arriving before the king, Jádhavráv made his obeisances and stood aside. His Majesty was very angry, and showed him the hogs and the letters. He also said that if that shameful business had been caused by any Chief but himself he would have put him to death under the feet of an elephant. He then told him that he had forgiven him, but he desired him to give his daughter in marriage to Sháháji, and said that if he delayed compliance with his request, and if Máloji and Vithoji should in consequence again commit any improper act, he would certainly be punished. Jádhavráv replied that, according to his commands, he would marry his daughter Jijawa to Sháháji, but that he had one request to make which he hoped His Majesty would grant. The king desired him to mention it. And Jádhavráv expressed the wish that he would call Máloji, Vithoji and Sháháji before him, and make them Chiefs of twelve thousand horse, so that they might be his equals in rank. The Nizám sent for them, and when they reached the vicinity of Davlatábád, Jádhavráv and several other Sardárs went out to meet them and conducted them to the king's presence. His Majesty was much pleased with the appearance of Sháháji, and was pleased to bestow upon them honorary dresses, horses and elephants, and the rank of commander of twelve thousand horse. He also desired Jádhavráv to send for his daughter from Sindkher that her marriage with Sháháji might be celebrated before him. Jádhavráv accordingly had his family brought from Sindkher, and Máloji and Vithoji also sent for their families from Elora. The marriage of Jijawa and Sháháji then took place before the king at Davlatábád. Soon after Máloji and Vithoji sent to Elora for the seven pots full of money which they had concealed there. They distributed some of the money in charity to Fakirs and re-built a temple of Mahádev at Elora and made a tank near that village. Máloji also repaired a tank near the pagoda of Shambhu Mahádev, and they built Seráis for the accommodation of travellers. They gained considerable fame by these acts of liberality.

When Sháháji Rája reached his twentieth year Jijawa bestowed on him a son, who was called Sambháji Rája. That same year Nizám Sháh Bahiri died. He left two sons, seven years old, born of different mothers, who were both alive. There was a Mutsaddi or statesman, named Sábáji Anant, employed under the Nizám Sháhi Government, who was a man of great abilities, and in whom the greatest confidence was placed. The king's two widows sent for him and desired him to look out for some person qualified to be Vazir to the Government, and to bring him to them that the *khilát* (robe) of investiture might be bestowed on him. Sábáji Anant considered Sháháji possessed of all the requisite qualifications, and he introduced him to the ladies, and recommended him for the Vazirat. The ladies, accordingly, placed the king's two sons on Sháháji's knees and appointed him Vazir. From that day he sat along with the king's sons on the throne, and received every day the obeisances of the different dependant Chiefs who stood before the throne.

All these things greatly annoyed Jádhavráv. He said that he could not bear to see those two Kunbis, to whom he had formerly given subsistence in his service, and who had in a

treacherous manner obtained his daughter in marriage, exalted to such a degree that they sat upon the throne with the king's sons, whilst he stood and paid his respects before it. In short, Jádhavráv became so angry that he sent a vakíl to Sháhájehánábád with a letter to the Emperor Sháhájehán, and obtained the assistance of Mir Jumla and his army of sixty thousand men. He, together with several other Chiefs, went to meet Mir Jumla as far as the Narbada. From thence he marched back a little in advance of Mir Jumla, whom he conducted to Davlatábád.

Sháháji was so much alarmed by the superiority of the enemy's force that, taking the king's women and sons with him, he flew from Davlatábád to the vicinity of Kalyán. He then proceeded to take shelter in the fort of Máhuli. Jádhavráv and Mir Jumla pursued him, and invested the fort of Máhuli, and besieged it for six months. Owing to the length of the siege, Sháháji suffered much hardship, and at last he sent a vakíl with a letter to the king of Bijápur. The letter stated that the king of Delhi had sent an army against him, and that his father-in-law had conducted it to that place and besieged it. He proposed in the letter that if the king would make a suitable provision for him, he would enter his service and join him with his whole force. The king of Bijápur in consequence desired his Diván, Morár Jagdév, to satisfy Sháháji on every point, and bring him to his court. The Diván accordingly sent an invitation to Sháháji, couched in such terms as to satisfy him fully. Soon afterwards Sháháji left the fort of Máhuli during the night, and, accompanied by his wife Jijawa and son Sambháji, took the road to Bijápur. Jádhavráv immediately heard of his flight, and he and Mir Jumla pursued him, travelling upon elephants during the night by torch-light.

Sháháji's wife Jijawa was at that time seven months gone with the child Shiváji. She, therefore, could not bear the fatigue of travelling on horseback. After going five or six miles she was seized with such violent pains, that she could not go a step farther. This circumstance distressed Sháháji very much, as he was afraid of staying where he was, lest he should be overtaken by Jádhavráv. He, therefore, left one hundred horse with her, and told Jijawa that he was pursued by her father and could not, therefore, remain there, but that if Jádhavráv had any sense of decency he would not do her any injury. However, at any rate, she must take her chance. Having said this, he took his son Sambháji along with him and moved on. The next morning Jádhavráv reached the spot where Jijawa was. He, however, took no notice of her distressed condition. Some of his attendants reproached him, and said that it was very unbecoming in him not to pay some attention to Jijawa's distress. It would be unfortunate if Mir Jumla should learn that Jijawa was in his power, and that Jádhavráv should send her to some place of safety, as his only enemy was Sháháji, who had made his escape. At length Jádhavráv was induced, by what they said, to call Jijawa before him. He spoke to her in a kind and affectionate manner, and sent her under an escort of five hundred horse to the fort of Shivnér, which belonged to the Nizám Sháhi Government and was in the possession of Sháháji Rája.

Jijawa prayed to Shivái Bhawáni to bless her with a son, and promised, in case she should bring forth a boy, to call him by her name. Accordingly, in the year of Sháliváhán[1] 1548 (A.D. 1626) Jijawa was delivered of a son, whom she called Shiváji.

Jádhavráv pursued Sháháji as far as Ahmadnagar without success, and the latter arrived in safety at Bijápur. Morár Jagdév went out to meet him and conducted him into the presence of the king. His Majesty received him with great distinction, gave him honorary dresses, horses, and elephants, and made him a Chief of twelve thousand horse, with a jághír in the country of Karnátak. Mir Jumla then marched with his whole force towards Delhi.

[1] Sháliváhán is the era observed by the Hindus in the Maháráshtra. It commences seventy eight years after the Christian era.

Jádhavráv accompanied him as far as the Narbada, where he took leave of him and returned to Sindkher.

After that Sábáji Anant carried the women and children of Nizám Sháh from the fort of Máhuli, where they had been left by Sháháji, to the fort of Davlatábád, and the king's widows again made enquiries for some person capable of filling the office of Vazir. This measure was also recommended to them by Sábáji Anant. At that time a man named Mullick Ambar happened to arrive at Davlatábád. He had been a servant of Chungiz Khán, Vazir to the king of Bijápur, and after the death of the Vazir assumed the dress of a Fakir, and determiued to go to Mecca. Having entered a shop, he hung up his wallet and lay down to sleep. Sábáji Anant passed that way in his palanquin, and having by chance observed the feet of Mullick Ambar, he saw by certain signs upon them that the owner was capable of holding the Vazirat. He, therefore, sent one of his servants to wake him and bring him to him. On the arrival of Mullick Ambar at the house of Sábáji Anant, the latter sent him to his bath to be washed and scented with attar and other perfumes. He then had some good clothes put on him, and he was given something to eat. Sábáji afterwards took Mullick Ambar aside and told him that he would make him Vazir of the kingdom, provided that he would be faithful to him and would not intrigue against him. Mullick Ambar having taken an oath of fidelity to Sábáji, the latter introduced him to the king's widows, by whom he was invested with the Vazirat. Sábáji also placed the king's two sons on his knees, and from that day he began to sit along with them on the throne. He immediately communicated his appointment to the different Chiefs, and desired their attendance in order that they should pay their respects to the king's sons. Accordingly Jádhavráv and the other Chiefs went to court. Mullick Ambar also managed in a fitting manner all the affairs of State. In a short time Mir Jumla came from Delhi to attack Davlatábád. Mullick Ambar having made all the necessary preparations for war, marched towards Barhánpur, and attacked Mir Jumla near the fort of Assur. He received some severe wounds in the action, but succeeded in so completely defeating Mir Jumla, that he had to retreat to Delhi. Mullick Ambar pursued him as far as the Narbada, and then returned. From the time of obtaining that victory he used a seal with the following inscription: "The slave of God Mullick Ambar Chungiz Kháni." He soon afterwards, with an army of sixty thousand horse, invaded and plundered the districts of Mussor and Mahádev belonging to Bijápur. When this circumstance became known to the king of Bijápur, he lost no time in sending his principal officers, and Morár Jagdév, Sháháji Rája, Shurzáh Khán, and other Marátha Chiefs with a force of eighty thousand horse to oppose Mullick Ambar. The latter, however, did not think it advisable to hazard an action, and retreated to the Bhíma river near Koregaon in the district of Talegaon belonging to Dhumdera. He, however, found that the river was full, that there were no boats, and that it would be very difficult to cross. He alighted from his horse, prayed to the river, and with all humility asked that it would allow his army to pass. The waters immediately separated and the whole army went across. Mullick Ambar came last; and when he had crossed, the waters again united. When Morár Jagdév and the other Bijápur Chiefs arrived at the Bhíma and found that Mullick Ambar had crossed without boats, or any other visible means of getting over, they were quite astonished. When they heard the story, they sent word to Mullick Ambar that they had abandoned the pursuit of him, but that as through divine grace he had the power of making the waters part in order that his army should cross, they begged that he would halt till they could pay him their respects. Mullick Ambar then went to Davlatábád and Morár Jagdév marched with his whole force to Nagargaon in the district of Sarsi near the junctiou of the Bhíma and Indráni, where he halted. As Morár Jagdév had that year, 1555 of the Sháliváhán (A.D. 1633), obliged Mullick Ambar to retreat, he determined, on the occasion of a solar eclipse, to weigh himself twenty-four times against

different articles which he wished to give in charity. He then ordered that the elephant on which he rode should be weighed that he might give an equal weight of gold to the Bráhmans in honour of his success. His servants were all at a loss to know how to weigh the elephant till Sháháji Rája showed them how it might be done. The method which he pursued was as follows: He desired them to get a large strong boat and to make a number of marks on the outside of it, then he told them to put the elephant into it. He then ordered them to draw it into deep water, and to note to which of the marks it would sink. Afterwards they were to take out the elephant and fill the boat with stones till it should sink to the same mark, the stones being then weighed would show the weight of the elephant.

He was accordingly weighed in the manner pointed out by Sháháji Rája, and Morár Jagdév, having ascertained the corresponding amount in money, gave in jághírs to Bráhmans lands and villages equal in value to that sum, which are still held by their descendants. Morár Jagdév was much pleased with the proofs of sagacity which Sháháji had displayed, and conferred upon him in jághír the whole country of Junnar and Poona and the villages of Wái and Serol. Sháháji Rája having a high opinion of the ability and fidelity of Dádoji Kond Dev, the Patvári (accountant) of the village of Multhan in the district of Pátas and country of Poona, took him into his service and gave him entire charge of his jághír. He then, leaving 1,000 horse with him under the command of Siddi Hillall, marched himself, along with Morár Jagdév, towards Bijápur. Previous to his departure he desired Dádoji Kond Dev to bring his wife Jijawa and son Shiváji from Junnar, and to prepare a habitation for them at Poona. He requested that he should keep them there, and that he should attend particularly to the education of Shiváji. Dádoji accordingly prepared a very good house for the reception of Jijawa and Shiváji, and had them brought from Junnar with considerable pomp and lodged in the Lál Mahál at Poona. He was very assiduous in paying them every possible attention and in superintending the education of Shiváji, who was taught to ride, and instructed in all other military exercises.

Owing to the ill-treatment which he had experienced from Jádhavráv, Sháháji made a resolution never to see Jijawa, or his son Shiváji, and he, in consequence, married another wife, Tukábái, daughter of a man called Mohité, by whom he had a son whom he named Venkoji Rája. After this event Sháháji Rája attacked the fort of Kanakgiri, in which a rebellious zamindár had taken refuge. In the attack on that place Sháháji's son Sambháji Rája was killed by a cannon shot, but Sháháji succeeded in taking the place and seizing the person of the rebel. In the time of Nizám Sháh, a Habshi named Bara built the fort of Chákan, fifteen or sixteen miles from Poona, and created disturbances in the adjacent country. After his death the fort fell into the hands of Nizám Sháh, and it was afterwards given by him to Sháháji. When Sháháji fled before Jádhavráv towards Bijápur, Mártand Dev and Honáppa Deshpándé, inhabitants of Poona, who were noted marauders, got possession of the above-mentioned fort. They then created a serious commotion in the country, and committed several depredations. Soon after Morár Jagdév's success against Mullick Ambar, his Diván, Ráiráv, took advantage of a favorable opportunity which offered and, made Mártand Dev and Honáppa prisoners, and took the fort of Chákan. He drove iron pins through the nails of these two culprits' hands and tortured them in other ways. He also pillaged Poona, merely because it was the place of their nativity. Morár Jagdév again gave Chákan to Sháháji, and Mártand Dev contrived to make his escape.

Dádoji Pant soon afterwards prevailed on Mártand Dev to come to Poona, and having consulted with him, he settled the country, and so effectually punished all robbers and plundering banditti, that the inhabitants enjoyed perfect security and repose. Dádoji then founded a new village near Khed, which he called Shivápur in honour of Shiváji Rája, and made gardens, and planted a number of mango and other trees in its neighbourhood. Dádoji

was a man of such strict integrity, that having one day taken a mango off a tree, he afterwards repented so much of the act, that he desired the owner of the tree to cut off his hand. The man, however, was much surprised, and would not accept the recompense which Dádoji offered ; the latter then determined to wear a leather glove on that hand as a mark of the offence which he had committed. When Sháháji Rája heard of this circumstance, he was much pleased with Dádoji, and became so convinced of his being an honest and faithful servant, that he sent him a present of seven hundred pagodas and a *khilát*, and desired him to discontinue wearing the leather glove. He also authorized him to take whatever sums he might require for his expenses out of the revenues of the districts of which he had charge, and to carry the remainder to the credit of the public account. Sultán Shikandar[1] died that year, and Morár Jagdév and Sháháji Rája were at Bijápur when that event happend. As Sultán Shikandar's children were young, his widows assumed the management of the affairs of the State. In a short time they took a violent dislike to Morár Jagdév, and having called him before the throne, they ordered him to be put to death. He was immediately beaten so severely, that the persons charged with his execution thought that he had expired, and left him. He was, however, still alive, and in a short time rose and washed himself in a bath which happend to be in the Divánkhána of the palace. He there cut off the lock of hair from his head, and resolved to retire from the world, and end his days as a Darweshi or religious mendicant. However as soon as it was discovered that he was still alive, he was seized and put to death by cutting off his hands and feet. Soon afterwards the king's widows sent the twelve Vazirs and Shurzáh Khán with a large army to conquer the country of Davlatábád. When they reached the village of Bhatari, they were met by Mullick Ambar, who attacked and defeated them. He took the twelve Vazirs prisoners, but gave them *khiláts* and released them, and his mind was at once relieved from the anxiety which he had felt owing to the invasion made by the Bijápur army. When that war was over, Sháháji Rája marched with twelve thousand horse to the Karnátak and established himself in the districts of Ballapur and Kolar, which had been given to him as a jághír. At that time a great Rája named Vijaya Rághav, who had five hundred concubines, reigned in Tanjávar (Tanjore). He was always engaged in hostilities with the Rája of Trichinápally, and Sháháji Rája assisted the latter. He attacked and took the fort of Tanjávar and killed Vijaya Rághav. Sháháji found in the fort property to a great amount, and he took possession for himself of the whole country of Tanjávar. Sháháji had before made an agreement with the Rája of Trichinápally, that after he had taken the fort of Tanjore he would give him possession of it. After he captured the place, however, he broke faith with the Rája of Trichinápally, drove his people out of the country, and bestowed it on his own son, Venkoji. Sháháji then left with Venkoji, his mother Tukábái, and his wife Dipábái, and marched himself to the fort of Mahárájgad in the districts of Ballapur and Kolar. Venkoji Rája had three sons—Sháháji, Shurfji and Tukoji. The two first died childless, but Tukoji had issue. Mullick Ambar died that year at Davlatábád, and in the same year Sábáji Anant also departed from this life. As soon as Sháhájehán heard this news, he lost no time in sending Aurangzebe and Mir Jumla with a large army from Delhi to the Deccan. The object was to conquer Davlatábád, which place they captured. After that event Aurangzebe built a town at the village of Kharki, which Mullick Ambar had before selected as a site for a new town, some of the foundations of which had been actually laid. Aurangzebe encouraged inhabitants from all quarters to come and settle there. He also built a wall round it and called it Aurangábád (1653).

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[1] The writer evidently means the king Mahmud Adil Sháh who died in 1656 and not Shikandar who reigned at Bijápur from 1672 to 1686 A.D.

Aurangzebe then formed the design of conquering Bijápur, and marched in that direction. He met the Bijápur army at the village of Kundaji, and was completely defeated by Shurzáh Khán and the other Deccan Chiefs. He then retreated to Aurangábád, where he remained engaged in arranging the affairs of the Subhás of Kándesh, Berár and Aurangábád, over which he had then established his authority.

Shortly afterwards Dádoji, Sháháji's agent and guardian of Shiváji, died. He had exercised the full authority confided in him with perfect fidelity and left a considerable amount of treasure.

Shiváji Rája, who was then sixteen years old, sorrowed greatly at the death of Dádoji. Sháháji Rája had at that time marched by the way of Tanjávar (Tanjore) to some place beyond it, and being unacquainted with the death of Dádoji, he wrote him a letter desiring him, as soon as he should hear of his (Sháháji's) return to Bijápur, to send to him the treasure which he then had in his possession. As the letter arrived after the death of Dádoji, Shiváji opened and perused it, and he took possession of the treasure and twelve thousand horses which Dádoji had left. Siddi Hillall opposed this proceeding, and Shiváji in consequence sent him off to join Sháháji. He then entertained in his service twenty-five thousand Mávalis or hill people. He administerd well the whole country and appointed Shamráv Nilkanth, who understood the Persian language, to the office of Peshwa. He also nominated Rágho Ballál Aturé to the post of Chitnavis (Secretary) and another person of the same name to be his military accountant, and then raised some new troops.

When Sháháji received accounts of his son's proceedings, he bestowed upon him full powers as to the government of the country. He also expressed warm approval of his conduct, and sent him satisfactory assurances of his regard.

In that year (1657) Aurangzebe received a letter from his sister at Sháhjehánábád, telling him that the Emperor Sháhjehán was in a very critical state of health; she also informed him that other persons were establishing their influence in the State, and that it was necessary that he should, without delay, march back. Aurangzebe was much incensed by Shiváji's behaviour, and determined to attack him after he should get possession of the government of Hindustán. This circumstance was the origin of the wars between Aurangzebe and Shiváji. Aurangzebe then marched to Delhi and fought an action, in which Oodh Rám, Deshmukh of Mahor, who had accompanied him from the Deccan, was killed. After his fall, however, his wife Runi Begam continued the conflict, and was the means of winning the battle. Aurangzebe rewarded her by giving her Mahor in jághír, in addition to the office of Deshmukh of that district.

Soon afterwards Aurangzebe put to death his brothers Bahádur Sháh, Sháh Shuja, and Murád Baksh. He imprisoned the Emperor Sháhjehán his father, and established himself upon the throne of the empire.

About that time Niloji Nilkanth, who was Killédár of the fort of Purandhar under the Government of Nizám Sháh, threw off his allegiance to that Government, assumed independence and supported himself by levying contributions in the surrounding country. He was very intimate with Sháháji. Shiváji wrote him a letter to the following effect: that during the lifetime of his clerk Dádoji Pandit he left all his affairs to his management as he was a man of great talents and faithfully attached to him, and that he, Shiváji, was guided by his advice in all things. After his death, several circumstances had taken place, in consequence of which he, Shiváji, had no place of security in the country, and he therefore requested Niloji to allow him to canton during the rains under the fort of Purandhar. Niloji in consideration of the friendship which subsisted between him and Sháháji Rája, informed Shiváji, in reply,

that there was no difference of interest between them, that his house was at Shiváji's disposal, and that he might come whenever he pleased.

Immediately upon receipt of this answer Shiváji, accompanied by his mother Jijawa, marched with all his cavalry and twenty-five thousand Mávalis and encamped during the rains under the fort of Purandhar. Niloji Nilkanth had two brothers, Piláji Nilkanth and Sankroji Nilkanth, whom he kept in a state of inferiority and degradation, allowing them monthly victuals and clothes. These two brothers sent a secret message to Shiváji respecting a plan for seizing the person of Niloji, and giving him, Shiváji, possession of the fort. Shortly afterwards arrived the festal season of the Diwáli. Niloji sent one of his brothers to invite Shiváji to come unattended and favour him with his company at an entertainment which he intended to give on that occasion. Shiváji declined the invitation and observed that he could not, with any propriety, leave his mother and friends and the officers of his army and go alone to the entertainment. When Niloji's brother returned with this answer, Niloji consulted with him regarding it. He said, that being the festival of Diwáli if he did not invite Shiváji and Jijawa to an entertainment and pay them every suitable attention, he would be wanting in due respect to Sháháji, with whom he was so intimate, and whom he esteemed more than a brother. Niloji then determined to invite Shiváji with Jijawa and all his troops, and sent back his brother to ask them to come. The latter accordingly conducted them into the fort where Niloji entertained them three days, and he bestowed *khiláts* upon the whole party.

Niloji's brothers had determined to act treacherously towards him, and had informed Shiváji of their intention to secure his person and give him, Shiváji, possession of the fort. On the night of the eighth day, when Niloji had retired to rest, his brothers Piláji and Sankroji awoke Shiváji and conducted him to Niloji's apartment. Niloji had no suspicion of his brothers' treachery, and they found him asleep with one of his women. Shiváji tied him with ropes and put his feet in irons, and he very shortly afterwards confined Piláji and Sankroji, who had occasioned their brother's ruin. As they had shown themselves disposed to be violent, he also put them in irons. He then posted his own guards over the gates of the fort, which he placed in charge of some of his Mávalis. He also plundered the former garrison and deprived the family of Niloji of all their property, and got hold of a considerable amount of treasure. After three days had elapsed he released the three brothers, gave them the office of Náikvári[1] with a few villages for their subsistence, and allowed them to go out of the fort.

At that time Phirangoji Taisala, who had been placed in charge of the fort of Chákan by Dádoji Pant and had afterwards rebelled, came to Shiváji and gave him possession of that place. Shiváji then appointed Trimal Pinglé superintendent of public buildings, and ordered him to make the necessary repairs to all his forts. That person accordingly began to repair the forts of Rájgad, Padmávati, Sungeonee (Sanjivani) and Thusuweyuláh. Shiváji also got possession of the forts of Sinhagad, Torna and Chandragad. He also made some improvements in the fort of Ráigad, and as he considered it to be a place of strength, he made it his capital.

At this time a man named Chandraráv Jawulkar, a dependant of the Bijápur Government, resided at Jawul, and had in his service forty thousand Mávalis. His Diván Hanmantráv Moré was then at Mahábaleshvar. Chandraráv had several unmarried daughters, and Shiváji

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[1] Náikvári was a petty officer in forts or police stations who had authority over some ten or fifteen men. Sometimes he had to superintend the cultivation of the village and see that the produce was not misappropriated or stolen.

deputed his Sabnavis[1] Raghunáth Ballál, attended by one hundred foot and twenty-five horse, to go to the Diván at Mahábaleshvar to solicit one of Chandraráv's daughters in marriage.

When Raghunáth reached the vicinity of Mahábaleshvar he communicated, by message, to Hanmantráv the object of his journey. Hanmantráv gave him permission to come into the town, and went, slightly attended, to receive him at the gate. When they met, Raghunáth treacherously assassinated Hanmantráv, put to death the guard stationed at the gate, and fled by the road near the wall of the fort, and without halting joined Shiváji at Purandhar. Shiváji was pleased with Raghunáth's conduct, and marched himself the next day with forty thousand Mávalis and took possession of Mahábaleshvar. After taking that place Shiváji marched by the Nipáni Ghát to Jawul. Raghunáth Ballál marched by the Ratuni Ghát and joined Shiváji before Jawul, which place they then invested.

Chandraráv came on and attacked them, and the battle lasted nearly three hours. At length, however, he was defeated, and he and his two brothers Bájiráv and Krishnaráv and their women were taken prisoners. Shiváji then added twenty thousand Mávalis to his force and had sixty thousand Mávalis in his service.

The king of Bijápur informed Sháháji Rája, Shiváji's father, who then resided in the Karnátak, of his son's improper conduct. Sháháji replied that for a long time he had abandoned all connection with Shiváji and his mother, that Shiváji did not attend to any thing he said to him, and that the king might punish him for his unjustifiable proceedings in any way he might think proper. The king upon the receipt of this answer appointed Afzul Khán, who was his first Vazir and had a force of twelve thousand men, to chastise Shiváji. Afzul Khán undertook that service, and marched with his whole force to the town of Wái. As soon as Shiváji received intelligence of his movements he marched with his mother Jijawa and sixty thousand Mávalis and took refuge in the fort of Pratápgad.

Afzul Khán sent his Diván Krishnáji Bháskar to Shiváji to say that his improper conduct was forgiven, and that he would now consult his true interest if he joined him without any apprehension and accompanied him into the presence of the king. He would there procure him a pardon and increase of rank and also permission to leave the court. Krishnáji Bháskar delivered his message to Shiváji. Shiváji suspected the sincerity of it and did not think it advisable for him to go and visit Afzul Khán. He replied that if Afzul Khán was really desirous of obtaining a pardon and additional rank for him from the king, he hoped that he would in the first place come unattended and visit him, and after Afzul Khán had done that, and satisfied his mind with regard to his apprehensions and sworn to the sincerity of his assurances, he might then take him by the hand and conduct him to court and there exert himself in his behalf as he might think proper. If Afzul Khán should agree to this proposal he would prepare a place of meeting below the gate of the fort where he would wait unattended to receive the Khán. Shiváji then sent Dattáji Gopináth as his Vákil to the Khán along with Krishnáji Bháskar.

These two persons arrived at Wái and communicated Shiváji's answer to Afzul Khán, who agreed to Shiváji's proposal. Dattáji returned to inform Shiváji, and that Chief fixed upon a spot, below one of the bastions of the fort and near the gate, for the interview. He also desired Anáji Rangnáth to get ready all the articles necessary for the entertainment. He ordered him to pitch his velvet tents and to spread a rich carpet. All these things Anáji did.

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[1] Sabnavis or Sabnis was a public officer whose duty was to pay the local militia, garrisons of forts, and the public servants of an establishment or district and keep the records.

The Rája then sent Khandoji Ghárpuré with five thousand Mávalis to attend Afzul Khán from Wái. Uncertain as to what might happen, when the meeting took place, he sent for some Bráhmans, gave them a great deal of money, and desired them to go to Benares and Gaya and perform all the ceremonies which were prescribed by the Hindu religion to be performed on the death of a person. He also gave a number of cows in charity and cut his beard short. His mother was in consequence so much vexed that she cried, and Shiváji after that did not allow her to be near him. Shiváji then posted his sixty thousand Mávalis at different places, had the guns of the fort loaded, and ordered the Mávalis, as soon as he should kill Afzul Khán and they should hear the report of the guns, to attack and plunder the camp of that Chief. He then ordered a deep hole to be cut behind the place fixed for the meeting, in which he placed forty men of courage and resolution, with orders to conceal themselves there and to be in readiness when Afzul Khán should approach, and to fall upon him the moment he should enter the place and put him to death.

Afzul Khán left his guns and heavy baggage at Wái, and with his son Fazil Khán and a small party marched with Khandoji Ghárpuré, who had been sent by Shiváji to attend on him. It happened that the flag elephant of Afzul Khán refused, in spite of all the exertions of the driver, to proceed and some of his attendants drew from that a bad omen, and requested him to put off his journey. He did not, however, mind what they said, but ordered the elephant to be blinded, and placed the flag on another, and he then proceeded on his journey by the Ruor Tondoi Ghát, and encamped on the Koena river. He then sent Krishnáji Bháskar and Dattáji Gopináth with a message to Shiváji saying that to please him he had travelled so far, and that it was proper Shiváji should, without any alarm, come and meet him there. Shiváji would not agree to this, and the two persons before-mentioned went four times backward and forward with messages on the subject. At length when Afzul Khán found that Shiváji would not yield the point, he left his son Fazil Khán in charge of his camp on the Koena river, and went in his palanquin, attended by bearers and twenty-five Khidmatgárs, along with Krishnáji Bháskar and Dattáji Gopináth, to see Shiváji. When he came near the spot appointed for the meeting, his bearers set down his palanquin, and he came out of it and moved towards the place of rendezvous. Shiváji, who had made all his arrangements and was himself armed, advanced to the edge of the carpet to receive Afzul Khán, and asked Krishnáji Bháskar three times if that was the Khán. Afzul Khán also asked Krishnáji three times if that was Shiváji. They then looked at each other. Shiváji advanced and in a respectful manner put his head on the breast of Afzul Khán. The Khán embraced it, and Shiváji at that moment struck him in the belly with a dagger he held in his right hand so deep, that his entrails came out through the wound. The Khán cast his eyes towards Krishnáji Bháskar and said, it is over with me. Krishnáji immediately struck at Shiváji with a sword, but without effect. Shiváji then cut Afzul Khán in two pieces with a sword and he fell to the ground. Shiváji then said to Krishnáji I don't wish to kill a Bráhman, fly instantly and save yourself. Krishnáji then placed the Khán's body in the palanquin, and fled with it towards the camp. The persons whom Shiváji had concealed behind the place of the interview rushed out and killed the bearers and Khidmatgárs and took the Khán's body. In the scuffle which took place on that occasion Dattáji Bháskar received a wound. Shiváji's people also seized Krishnáji Bháskar, but Shiváji afterwards released him, and he fled to his own camp and joined Fazil Khán. Afzul Khán's body was taken into the fort (Pratápgad), and as the Khán had once acted with disrespect towards an image of Bhawáni at Tuljápur, Shiváji ordered his corpse to be treated with indignity. He had the head cut off, and placed over the gate of the fort. Shiváji then ordered a salute to be fired, and the *naubat* or big drum to be struck in token of his success. As soon as the Mávalis heard the guns, they fell upon Fazil Khán's camp and

plundered it. Then they went to Wái, and seized the heavy baggage and guns, which Afzul Khán had left there, and drove off the troops that had been stationed there for their protection. The ordnance that was captured was taken up to the fort. Kundu Sapurah, who was an officer of distinction in the service of Afzul Khán, was also put to death. The assassination of Afzul Khán happened in the year of the Shálivâhán 1574 (A.D. 1652). Shiváji presented one lákh of pagodas to Dattáji Gopináth, who had brought about that business. He also gave him in jághír the village Heori, which is held by his descendants to this day. After the murder of Afzul Khán, and the rout and plunder of his army, his son Fazil Khán, who had received a wound, made his escape in the dress of a Fakir to Bijápur. He came into the king's presence, and demanded revenge for his father's blood. The king ordered all his Chiefs to prepare for war and to march along with Fazil Khán to punish Shiváji. The Chiefs accordingly marched with Fazil Khán with an army of eighty thousand men, and invested the fort of Panhála, in which place Shiváji then was. They continued the attack six whole months upon Shiváji and Netáji Párkar the Sarnaubat (commander-in-chief), who had sixty thousand Mávalis with them. During the siege, Shiváji made several sorties from the fort, and attacked Fazil Khán's batteries. One night, when Shiváji was meditating an attack, the brother of Netáji's wife was found to be absent. Shiváji was in consequence very angry, and ordered his name to be marked down absent for one month. A dispute occurred between Netáji and Shiváji on the subject, and the former spoke with so much warmth that Shiváji dismissed him from his service. He gave to a Guzar named Kurtoji the title of Pratápráv and the office of Bakshi (pay-master) of the forces. As soon as Fazil Khán managed to get his guns upon a small hill, he opened fire upon the fort. The Killédár (commandant of the fort) was then alarmed, and told Shiváji, that it appeared to him advisable, that he should make a sortie to relieve the garrison. Shiváji, thinking the advice good, left 20,000 Mávalis in the fort, and moved out at night with 40,000 Mávalis and attacked Fazil Khán's camp. He kept up a running fight, moving all the time in the direction of Vishálgad, and was followed by Fazil Khan's army. Shiváji continued moving all night, and in the morning was within eight miles of Vishálgad still pursued by Fazil Khán's troops. Báji Parbhu, and the other Chiefs of the Mávalis, then requested Shiváji to take half the Mávalis along with him, and move with all possible expedition to the fort of Vishálgad, and to fire some guns when he got into the fort, as a signal to them, that he was safe, in the meanwhile they would courageously engage the enemy. Shiváji took their advice and moved with half the troops to Vishálgad. Soon after Fazil Khán with Shurzáh Khán and the other Chiefs came up. Báji Parbhu took his post in a defile through which the road led, and remained there ready to receive Fazil Khán. They fought till noon, and Fazil Khán could not force the defile. As soon as Báji Parbhu and the other Chiefs heard the guns of Vishálgad announce Shiváji's safe arrival there, they renewed the fight with greater spirit. In a short time Fazil Khán's infantry turned the flanks of the Mávalis and attacked them in the rear. A vast number of them were slain, and the rest fled. Báji Parbhu with a few of his companions, however, kept their ground, but he was at last killed, and all his followers immediately fled. Fazil Khán gained a complete victory, and arrived with his whole army below the fort of Vishálgad. He remained there three or four hours consulting with his officers. It appeared to him that the Konkan was a very difficult country to subdue. If he invested the fort he would be in want of water, and he would also be harassed by the night attacks of Shiváji, and he might in one of them fall into Shiváji's hands. These considerations determined him not to remain. He gave up the idea of any further attack on Shiváji, and set off for Bijápur. Shiváji, in testimony of his high sense of the gallant conduct of Báji Parbhu, gave his son Bápji Báji the office of Bakshi and a jághír. He also bestowed upon him the Killédári (commandantship) of all the forts which had been held by his father. Shiváji then came to the fort of Purandhar. At this time Shámráj Nilkanth Peshwa died. Shiváji appointed Moro

Trimbak Pinglé, who was the superintendent of the buildings at Rájgad, his successor in the Peshwaship. He also nominated Niloji Sondev to be Mujumdár (Finance Minister), Trimbak Sondev, son of Sonáji Pandit, to the office of Dabir (Chief Secretary), Anáji Dattu, Surnavis (Registrar General), Dattáji Pandit, Wákarnavis (manager of the household and chief caterer), Raghunáth Bhat to the office of introducing Bráhmans to the Rája and to the post of manager of religious bequests and State charities, and Nároji Pant to the office of administering justice; and the eight persons appointed to these offices were called Pradháns or ministers. Aurangzebe was at this time on the throne of Delhi, and had been three years engaged in settling the affairs of Hindustán. Shiváji built several strong forts, increased his army, and began to plunder the royal territories. When Aurangzebe heard of these doings, he sent an order to Mahukum Sing, who had charge of Aurangábád, to chastise Shiváji. Mahukum Sing accordingly moved against him with ten thousand infantry, and arrived about half way between Ahmadnagar and Poona. Shiváji, as soon as he heard of his advance, sent Pratápráv Guzar Sarnaubat with twenty thousand men to attack him. Mahukum Sing notwithstanding the comparative weakness of his force, boldly attacked Pratápráv. He was however killed, and his army defeated. A large amount of booty fell into the hands of the victor. After that Shiváji went from Purandhar to Ráigad in the Konkan. He remained there for some time, and during that period married three women. He built several forts on the islands in the ocean named Suwarndurg, Vijaydurg, Kulába, and Sindhudurg. His principal object in building these forts was to assist in blocking up the fort of Rájápur. He also built several vessels, and thus kept the Habshis, Firangis (Portuguese) and English in order. He then got possession of the whole Konkan from Kalyán-Bhivndi to Sôndáh. When Aurangzebe heard of these proceedings, he sent Sháhiste Khán, who was his maternal uncle, with eighty thousand men, horse and foot, from Hindustán to the Deccan, to punish Shiváji Rája. Jysing Mirza Rája was also sent, along with Sháhiste Khán, on this service. As soon as the Khán reached the Deccan he invested the fort of Chákan. Phirangoji, the Killédár of that place, bravely held out for nine months. At length Sháhiste Khán sprang a mine under a bastion between the east and south points of the fort, by which he blew up the bastion, and so, got possession of the place. Phirangoji the Killédár sought his own safety by paying his respects to Sháhiste Khán. The Khán offered to give him a situation in his service, and to keep him near his person. Phirangoji however, declined the offer, and got leave to go and join Shiváji. Shiváji was much pleased with his attachment, and made him Killédár of Bhopálgad. Some time previous to the capture of Chákan, Bábáji Rám and Honáppa, Deshpándés or district accountants and inhabitants of Poona, had joined Sháhiste Khán near Burhanpur, and attached themselves to him.

These circumstances shook Shiváji's confidence in some of his officers. He one day, in open Darbár, spoke harshly to Sambháji son of Kásji, who was a friend and relation of Bábáji and Honáppa, and told him that as those two persons, who were his dependants, had deserted him and gone over to his enemy, he ceased to have any confidence in him (Sambháji) who was their friend and relative. Sambháji was much affected by this circumstance and, in consequence, went and joined Sháhiste Khán. Sambháji was a young man of great strength. Of this he gave a proof during his first visit to Sháhiste Khán by lifting up a horse by the four legs. Sháhiste Khán was very kind to him. Having got the necessary orders he went with five hundred horse and established himself at Malkur. As soon as Shiváji heard of this he sent one Nuttoji, who was an inhabitant of Malkur, to attack Sambháji. He accordingly marched there, attacked, defeated, and killed Sambháji, and then set fire to Malkur, which has never since been inhabited. This happened in the year of Shálivàhán 1579 (A.D. 1657). After the capture of Chákan, Sháhiste Khán came and established himself at Poona. He, with his women and children, took up his abode in the Lál Mahál, which had been Shiváji's own residence. He here bestowed some marks of favour upon Bábáji Rám, and he called some Bráhmans to him and

wrote a Sanscrit letter to Shiváji to the following effect: "That like a monkey he was an inhabitant of the hills and trusting to the protection of his forts he conducted himself in a most improper manner. When an action took place he sheltered himself in his forts; however, as long as he continued to shut himself up in the forts he would never cease to pursue him; that he, Sháhiste Khán, was like Rája Indra, but that he, Shiváji, would not dare to fight, but always fled." Shiváji replied to Sháhiste Khán's letter in the following terms: "It is true that I am like a monkey and that you are like Rája Indra, but I am like those monkeys that destroyed Rávan and got possession of Ceylon, and I will make your retreat difficult." Shiváji then collected his Mávalis in the fort of Rájgad, and laid a plan for slaying Sháhiste Khán by treachery. He got hold of a gardener, who lived below the window of the Lál Mahál, on the way leading into the garden, and was in the habit of taking followers to Sháhiste Khán. Shiváji, through the instrumentality of his sister-in-law, bribed the gardener by a promise of five hundred pagodas, to agree to let Shiváji into the Lál Mahál at night and conduct him to the sleeping apartment of Sháhiste Khán. After having arranged this plan Shiváji, on a night darker than his heart, and in the midst of very heavy rain, marched from Rájgad towards Poona with forty thousand Mávalis and five hundred horse. When he reached the Itul Môi river, which is about two miles from Poona, he ordered the five hundred horse to halt there. He also dismounted himself and posted his Mávalis in different places. He then moved on with a few chosen followers and was conducted by the gardener to the Lál Mahál. They first killed the eunuch and twenty-five men who were on guard at the gate. The gardener who conducted Shiváji, made a mistake, and led him to the apartment of Sháhiste Khán's son. The young man was asleep with his wife, and Shiváji put him to death. There was a female servant, whom Shiváji beat a little, and desired her to show him the apartment of Sháhiste Khán. The girl, alarmed for her life, showed Shiváji the way. Sháhiste Khán awoke and immediately fled: he leapt over a wall that was in his way and got safe beyond it. Shiváji pursued him, made a cut at him with his sword, and cut off his thumb. The tumult awoke all the guards and attendants, who closed all the exits around Shiváji, but Shiváji made his escape by the way he entered. When Shiváji got out of the window, he saw a man with a torch upon an elephant, and perceived that the road by which he had to pass was defended. He considered for a moment, and determined to attack the party. He made the onset with such vigour that he cut his way through them. The elephant was badly wounded, and had its trunk cut off. Shiváji having got clear mounted a horse and fled, and in the morning he arrived at Rájgad. Sháhiste Khán was greatly distressed on account of the murder of his son. Although it was raining heavily at the instant, he had torches lit, and immediately pursued Shiváji with his troops, and invested Rájgad. The garrison opened fire and some of the shot took effect among the horsemen. Sháhiste Khán seeing that the place was very difficult of access, returned to Poona, and determined to attack Shiváji after the monsoon.[1]

Aurangzebe received accounts by dawk, of Shiváji's night attack on Poona, and was so much displeased with Sháhiste Khán, that he removed him from his post, and appointed Mirza Rája Subhédár of the Deccan. He also attached Dillir Khán to the Rája. The Rája prepared to attack Shiváji, and invested the forts of Karkana and Sinhagad. Shiváji sent some Mávalis to strengthen those garrisons, and used to make night sorties and destroy the Rája's batteries. He also contrived to throw provisions into those forts. Shiváji, however, saw that he was getting into difficulties, and determined to make an effort to drive off the Rája. He sent for Pratáprâv Guzar Sarnaubat, and desired him to disguise himself like a sepoy, and to go alone into the Rája's camp, and to watch for an opportunity to assassinate the Chief.

[1] The above account differs from that given by Mr. Grant Duff in his History of the Maráthás.

Shiváji also swore to provide for the Guzar's family. Pratápráv accordingly went into the Rája's camp disguised as a sepoy in want of service. He got service with some of the Rája's dependants, and by degrees managed to gain promotion. At last, he raised himself to so high a rank, that he was permitted to appear in the Rája's presence. One evening when the Rája was walking alone towards his mahál, Pratápráv thought the opportunity a favourable one, and drew out his dagger to stab him. Some of the Rája's guards saw this, and instantly ran up and seized the Ráv and beat him severely. The Rája then asked him, what had induced him to make the attempt, as he had never behaved ill to him. The Ráv told him the whole story. The Rája gave him a *khilát* and a horse, and allowed him to go away unpunished. He joined Shiváji at Rájgad, by whom he was well received. Shiváji then marched to Purandhar, and plundered a convoy of grain, that was on its way from Burganu or Burkanu to Mirza Rája's camp. Mirza Rája then raised the siege of Sinhagad, and marched with Dillir Khán and his whole army to invest Purandhar. There was a small hill near the village of Rudra Kawl. on which the Rája planted some guns and opened a fire on the fort. He also erected a battery on the side of Nárráyanpeth. Shiváji made several sorties from the Kider gate, At length Mirza Rája sent a vakil to Shiváji to request an armistice. Shiváji agreed to the proposal, and paid the Rája a visit attended by his Mávalis. A treaty was then ratified. It was stipulated that Shiváji with his son Sambháji should go and pay his respects to the king at Delhi, and that Mirza Rája's son Rám Sing should accompany him, and introduce him to the king, and obtain for Shiváji the royal pardon. When they parted, Mirza Rája presented Shiváji with many valuable presents. Shiváji sent his mother Jijawa and his whole family to the fort of Rájgad. He left with Jijawa his confidential servants Rája Rám. Moro Pant Deshpándé, Nilo Sondev Mujumdár, and Annáji Pant Surnavis, and a good body of horse. He then prepared for his march to Delhi. He took with him Pratápráv Guzar Sarnaubat, Niráji Rávji Vakil, Trimbak Pant Dabir, Raghunáth Pant Karindé, and Hiráji Phurchand with five thousand horse and five thousand Mávalis. Rája Mirza went to Aurangábád and sent off his son, accompanied by a large force, with Shiváji to Delhi. They reached Delhi by regular marches. Shiváji's visit to the king was settled by means of Rám Sing. Although Rám Sing, before the visit took place, instructed Shiváji and his son in all the rules of etiquette that should be observed on the occasion, yet when they came into the royal presence they neglected them all, and did not even make a salám, thinking it improper to salám to a Musalmán after the manner of the Hindus. They did not even pay any attention to the signs which Rám Sing made to them that they should salute the king. They went and stood by the side of Rahimkhán, a Pathán. The king smiled and looked towards Rám Sing, who represented to his Majesty that they were Maráthás and were not acquainted with the etiquette of courts. Rám Sing was requested to take them away. On leaving they did not salám, but turned their backs to the king, and walked out. They then went to their tents. The next day the king sent for Rám Sing, and desired him to tell Shiváji that his leave to quit court depended on one of two conditions, either that he should find security for his good behaviour, or that he should leave his son behind as a hostage. Shiváji told Rám Sing in reply, that he would not agree to either of these conditions, but that he would stay there with his son. The king ordered a large force of ten thousand men and several guns to be placed as a guard over Shiváji's residence, and appointed a man called Hazari to be the commandant. After Shiváji's confinement, he abused Rám Sing, and told him that the treaty between them had been violated, and that if any thing happened in consequence, no blame could attach to him. He also expressed a wish to Rám Sing to keep along with him two palanquins, two horses, and Nuráji Pant, Trimbak Pant, Raghunáth Pant Karindé, and Hiráji Phurchand as personal attendants, and to send back all his troops and baggage to the Deccan under charge of Pratápráv. Rám Sing obtained the king's consent to this arrangement, which was accordingly

carried into effect. Shiváji and his son remained ten months in confinement. During this time he frequently visited the king, and was received with great respect. He became, by means of Hiráji Pant, acquainted with Ráhim Khán Patháu and several other Mutsuddis (officers of Government), and began to send them presents of fruits and different rarities. At first his guard attempted to stop these things, but in a short time they took no notice of them. One day, about five in the evening, Shiváji went out with the men who were carrying the fruit. They all made their escape out of the town, and went into the house of a potter, who was an inhabitant of the Deccan, and with whom Hiráji Phurchand had before settled the plan of escape. They there concealed themselves. When Shiváji made his escape, Hiráji Phurchand put on Shiváji's turban, which had a *toorá* (bunch of pearls) in it, and lay down in Shiváji's bed. The guards, looking through the windows, saw as they thought Shiváji asleep. After sun-set Hiráji got up, placed the turban with the *toorá* on the bed, and made his escape and joined Shiváji. Nuráji Pant also, on hearing of the circumstance, joined Shiváji. As soon as Shiváji's guards perceived that there was no light in Shiváji's apartment as usual, they went in to examine it and found that the Rája and his attendants had made their escape. All escaped, except Trimbak Pant Dabir and Raghunáth Pant Karindé, who fell into their hands. Shiváji and his attendants remained concealed in the potter's house a whole month. The strictest search was made in the city, and men were sent down the different roads in pursuit of Shiváji, but in vain. When the tumult occasioned by his escape had subsided, Shiváji and his attendants came out of their concealment and fled disguised like Bairágis (religious mendicants). They visited Alláhábád, Benáres, and Gaya, and went through the usual ceremonies performed by pilgrims at those places.

Sambháji fell sick from having to travel so hard on foot, and Shiváji left him at Benáres in charge of a Bráhman named Nánáji Vishvásráv. Shiváji went to Chanda, and from there to the district of Indur. He soon afterwards passed the Godávari and reached a village, where some of his own horse under Anandráv had been plundering a short time before. Shiváji and his attendants remained the night at the house of the *pátil* or headman of the village. The *pátil's* wife told them that Shiváji's troops had destroyed their village, and that she wished to God that Shiváji might die in confinement at Delhi; and she little thinking that he was present abused Shiváji in the most violent terms. Shiváji looked towards Nuráji and smiled. He made a note of the name of the village and of the woman. In a short time he crossed the Bhima and reached his own country. He went to the gate of Rájgad, where his mother resided, and requested admittance to the presence of Jijawa. The guards informed Jijawa that some strange Bairágis or religious mendicants were at the gate of the fort, and requested to see her. She desired that they should be admitted. When they came into her presence, Nuráji Pant blessed her after the manner of the Bairágis, and Shiváji advanced towards her and threw himself at her feet. She did not recognize him and was surprised at his behaviour. That a Bairági should place his head on her feet, appeared to her strange indeed. Shiváji then placed his head in Jijawa's lap and took off his cap. Jijawa immediately perceived, by a mark on his head, that he was her son and embraced him. Immediately after Shiváji bathed and changed his dress and adorned himself with jewels. Jijawa on that day distributed large sums of money in charity, fired guns, beat the *nagárá* or drum, and all the people, great and small, were filled with joy. A short time afterwards Nánáji Vishvásráv the Bráhman arrived with Sambháji from Benáres, and Shiváji gave him a lákh of pagodas as a reward for his services. Trimbak Pant Dabir and Raghunáth Pant Karindé, who had been seized at Delhi, were released by order of the king and joined Shiváji. He gave to each of his attendants jághírs and distinctions according to their respective rank. Some time after Mirza Rája was removed from his appointment of Subhédár or Governor of the Deccan and called to the presence of the king. Dillir Khán Pathán was nominated his successor.

This Khán marched towards the Deccan, and arrived at Burkanu on the banks of the Bhima. Shiváji became displeased with his son Sambháji, and confined him in Garpur and attached Umá Pandit to his person as his teacher. Sambháji opened a secret communication with Dillir Khán. One night he made his escape, taking with him some treasure that was in the place, and arrived at Burkanu. Dillir Khán went out to receive him, and conducted him into his camp with great honour. He gave him a force, and he marched to Bhopálgad, which place Phirangoji Narsala the Killédár surrendered to him without opposition. He and Vitthal Bháleráv the Sabnavis went and joined Shiváji at Panhála. Shiváji immediately seized Phirangoji and blew him away from the mouth of a gun. As Bhálerâv was a Bráhman, Shiváji spared his life, but beat him severely and dismissed him from his service. Dillir Khán went to Bijápur, and from thence to Haidarábád. As soon as the king Alamgir heard of Sambháji's having joined Dillir Khán, he wrote to the latter to confine him. Dillir Khán considering this order highly improper, gave Sambháji private intimation of it and allowed him to escape. He then wrote to the king, that Sambháji had fled, and joined his father, before he had time to carry the royal commands into execution. After that Dillir Khán marched to Mulkhuri where he was met by Madunna, Diván of Tanna Sháh, who, with a large force, attacked and defeated him. He, however, was in a short time reinforced by the Bijápur army and, in his turn, defeated Madunna. A peace was then made between them. As soon as Alamgir found out that Dillir Khán had disobeyed his commands, and favoured Sambháji's escape, he was greatly incensed, and had him poisoned. The Subhédári or Governorship of the Deccan was then conferred on the prince Sháh Alam, and Rája Kurn, Bhow Sing and Jysing were attached to him. Shiváji sent a deputation consisting of Nura Rávji with Anáji Raghunáth Mulguri, Bisáji Malhár Wáikar and Pratápráv Guzar, a Sardár or commander over five thousand men, to the prince at Aurangábád. After a long negotiation Nuráji concluded a peace on the following terms: that Shiváji should give up to the king twenty-seven strong forts, such as Purandhar, Trimbak, &c., and that he should receive in jághír from the king the country of Berár, Bálápur, Shri Aundi and other districts. On these terms peace continued for three years, when hostilities again commenced. Moro Pant Deshpándé Peshwa retook the twenty-seven forts from the royal garrisons and then he went to the fort of Salheri and took possession of the whole of Báglana. Shiváji himself went and plundered Surat (1667) where a great deal of property fell into his hands. Shiváji then wrote a letter to the king to the following effect: "That he had chastised his maternal uncle Sháhiste Khán, that he had plundered his city of Surat (Surat ra bé surat kurd),[1] that he had no right to Hindustán, which belonged to the Hindus, and that he had no right to the Deccan, which belonged to the Nizám Sháhi Government, of which he, Shiváji, was the Vazir." He received no reply to this letter. Shiváji marched from Surat to Ráigad. He then wrote to Shiváppa Náik, who was an ancient and refractory zamindár, desiring him to pay a certain Peshkush[2] and to keep a Vakil along with Shiváji. The zamindár wrote to Shiváji in reply that if he had the means of taking Peshkush from him he might do that. Shiváji immediately set off to attack him. Shortly after he marched he received notice that the mother of Rája Rám (Shiváji's wife) had arrived at puberty. He in consequence, according to the custom of the Hindus, sent for her, halted for some time, and the lady then became pregnant with Rája Rám. Shiváji sent her back to Ráigad and proceeded on his expedition. He collected his vessels at Shambhudurg, embarked with his Mávalis, and went by sea

[1] "I have spoilt the face of Surat." Shiváji indulges in a pun on the word Surat.

[2] The term Peshkush or Peshkash was applied to the fee or present given to the ruling power on receiving an appointment or on the renewal of a grant. It was also applied to the contributions exacted from the great zamíndárs or land-holders as a kind of quit-rent in lieu of a fixed revenue.

and plundered Hasur in the country of Gokarn. He then returned to Ráigad. Shiváppa was alarmed, sent a Vakil to Shiváji, and agreed to pay three lákhs of rupees per annum. Shiváji also sent a Vakil to Bidnorigad, and from that time peace was established between Shiváji and Shiváppa Náik. Sháháji Rája, after the death of Afzul Khán, got hold of the greater portion of the forts belonging to the Bijápur Government, and the king of that place tried in vain to recover them. At length he despatched Báji Ghorparé secretly to the Karnátak to seize Sháháji by treachery. Sháháji was then, with a small force, at the fort of Jirawaddi near Chandi Chunjáwar. Báji Ghorparé invited Sháháji to an entertainment and seized him. The king of Bijápur was much pleased when he heard this news, and immediately wrote to Báji Ghorparé not to bring Sháháji alive. Randulla Khán, the Vazir of Bijápur, was a great friend of Sháháji. When he became acquainted with what had taken place, he pretended to retire from the world, put on a Fakir's dress, and requested the king to allow him to go to Mecca. He had also persuaded all the other ministers to prevail on the king to grant his request. The king was afraid that the State would suffer greatly from the loss of so able a man, and he took Randulla Khán by the hand, made him sit down by him, and endeavoured to dissuade him from his intention. He told him any wish, which he might have, should be gratified. Randulla Khán replied, that all the evils which had occurred, arose from Shiváji, that Sháháji had not behaved ill, that according to the Koran the good should be rewarded and the bad punished, that Sháháji was innocent and that the order to put him to death was unjust. The king yielded to the arguments of Randulla Khán, and reprieved Sháháji, and having taken Randulla Khán as a security for his good behaviour, he called Sháháji to court. The second order conveying the reprieve of Sháháji arrived just in time to save his life, and Báji Ghorparé marched with him towards Bijápur. When he approached that city, Randulla and the other principal officers of the Government went out to meet Sháháji and conducted him to the presence of the king, by whom he was received with every mark of attention. Sháháji stayed fifteen days and obtained permission to return to Chunjávar (Tanjore), with the understanding that he should attend upon the king with his troops whenever he should receive a summons. On taking leave Randulla Khán told Sháháji not to depend on Báji Ghorparé, who would do whatever he might be ordered by the king, and to avoid coming to Bijápur. As soon as Sháháji reached Chunjávar (Tanjore), he wrote to Shiváji, that if he were his son, and if he had any desire to please him, he should, without loss of time, punish Báji Ghorparé and plunder and destroy Mudhol, which was his village. Shiváji accordingly laid waste that place and put to death Báji Ghorparé and three thousand of his people. Even Ghorparé's women who were with child were not spared, but his son, Venkoji Ghorparé, who happened to be absent, escaped. Sháháji was delighted when he heard the news and felt a desire to see his son. He accordingly marched to Poona. When he approached that place, Shiváji went with his whole army to meet him, and received him with all possible honour. He walked on foot alongside of Sháháji's palanquin ten miles, till he reached the town. Sháháji went immediately to see Jijawa, and they both felt extreme pleasure at meeting again after so long an absence. Sháháji remained at Poona two months, and having paid his devotions at Jejuri and the temple of Mahádev, returned to the Karnátak. Soon after Ranmastkhán came with a large force to the vicinity of Kolhápur. Shiváji sent Pratápráv Guzar to meet him, but the Guzar was defeated and killed. Soon after Shiváji gave the appointment of Senápati to Hambirráv Bhimráv Mohité, and he transferred Kánu Mor Dev from the office of Mujmudár and conferred it on Banáji Raghunáth Mulguri. On the day of the Dasará he also made Kaoji and Báji Parbhu, who were Surnavis (Registrars), Mujmudárs (Finance Ministers).

At this time the king of Bijápur sent an order to Sháháji to march, along with Randulla Khán and Shurjá Khán, into Bednur. Sháháji accordingly joined those Chiefs. When the

army reached Hondiguri, dependant on Busopattan, and on the banks of the Tungabhadra, Sháháji went with the other Chiefs to hunt. They started a hare. Sháháji galloped after it, and his horse putting his foot into a hole, fell. The horse's hoof struck Sháháji in the breast, and Sháháji was killed on the spot. A tomb was erected there to his memory, and the king of Bijápur granted some villages in order to defray the expense of maintaining and lighting it. After that Shiváji entered and began to plunder the Haidarábád country. Tanna Sháh was alarmed, and with the advice of Akunna Madunna, his Diván, sent a man named Mudduntuck as a Vakil to Shiváji, and agreed to pay Shiváji a yearly tribute of nine lákhs of pagodas. After the treaty was settled, Shiváji appointed Nurájiráv his Vakil at the court of Tanna Sháh. After the death of Nuráji, his son Purland succeeded to the post. Shiváji, after the peace with Tanna Sháh, invaded the Bijápur territories and plundered them. He razed the wall of Davlatpur, a place dependant on that Government. After a great part of the Bijápur dominions had been laid waste the king agreed to pay Shiváji a yearly tribute of seven lákhs of pagodas. Shiváji appointed Shámji Náik Pondé his Vakil at Bijápur. On the death of Sháháji, his son Venkoji took possession of all his dominions in the Karnátak, and seated himself on the masnad. He dismissed Raghunáth Náráyan Hunavanti Mujmudár, who had been Sháháji's Prime Minister. Raghunáth was sorely vexed by Venkoji's conduct, and having, under pretence of a pilgrimage to Benáres, got leave to depart, he went to Bijápur. The king received him very kindly, and even thought of making him his Vazir. Shiváji hearing of this, wrote to Raghunáth that as long as he, Shiváji, lived, it would be very improper for Raghunáth to enter the service of a Musalmán, and that he requested he, Raghunáth, would come with perfect confidence and join him. Raghunáth Pant accordingly joined Shiváji. When he came near the fort of Panhála, Shiváji went out to meet him, and conducted him with great respect to his own house. At this time Nilu Sondev Mujmudár died, and Raghunáth Pant was appointed his successor. Raghunáth Pant very shortly afterwards represented to Shiváji that as his father had conquered the Karnátak, he should take half of it from Venkoji. Shiváji having left his sons Sambháji and Rája Rám and Anájidev Surnavis with an army of Mávalis to guard his territories, marched with Hambirráv Bhimráv Mohite Senápati and forty thousand horse and forty thousand Mávalis towards the Karnátak. When he reached the vicinity of Haidarábád, he was met by Akunna Madunna, the Prime Minister of Tanna Sháh. Shiváji, attended by Raghunáth Náráyan, Dattáji Pánt Wákarnavis, Hambirráv Senápti, Purland Nuráji Vakil, Anáji Raghunáth Mujmudár, and five Khidmatgárs or personal attendants went to visit Tanna Sháh. When Shiváji got as far as the Dád Máhál, Anáji Raghunáth advised him to take a few trusty guards along with him, and Mánsing and Rupáji Bhonsla were accordingly ordered to attend. When Shiváji entered the Dád Máhál, Tanna Sháh came out to receive him, and desired him and Raghunáth Náráyan and Purland Nuráji to sit down. Shiváji remained there nearly two hours. In the course of conversation Shiváji observed that if Tanna Sháh and the king of Bijápur would join and assist him, he would conquer and give to them the whole of Hindustán. On taking leave, Shiváji received from Tanna Sháh very rich dresses, five elephants, ten horses, a fine palanquin, and five lákhs of pagodas. All Shiváji's officers also received dresses. Shiváji remained at Haidarábád one month. On his departure he gave five lákhs of pagodas and five thousand rupees worth of jewels to one Keshav Swámi, who used to recite parts of the holy scriptures to him every day. He marched to the banks of the Tungabhadra, and having levied a contribution of five lákhs of pagodas on the town of Kunari, he went by way of the Sangam of Norti to Shri Shailya, which is a sacred place of the Hindus, and situated on the top of a mountain. He left his army encamped at Anantpur below the mountains and travelled twenty-four miles through the mountains to Shri Shailya, which he reached on the third day. After having gone through the usual ceremonies, his mind

became suddenly affected. He grew tired of the world and put on the dress of a fakir, covered his body with ashes, and put on a necklace of one thousand rudraksh (Eleocarpus lanceolatus) beads. He also thought of sacrificing himself before Shri Shailya. He then told his attendants to place on the masnad whichever of his sons they thought worthy of that honour. Raghunáth Pant used all the arguments he could devise, and supported them by appropriate quotations from the shástrás, to dissuade Shiváji from his intention. On the ninth day he succeeded. The Rája returned to his camp and continued his march. He then went and laid siege to the fort of Vellore. There are two small hills near that fort on which he erected small forts which he called Sájra and Gôjra, and, having taken guns up to them, he got possession of Vellore. He then went to Chundì Chunjávar, and sent a message to Ambir Khán, the Killédár (commandant) of that place, telling him that he had made peace with the kings of Bijápur and Haidarábád, and requesting that he would come out and visit him. Ambir Khán, with his eight sons, accordingly came out to visit Shiváji, who seized the Khán and his eight sons, and got possession of the fort of Chundi Chunjávar. He made Rámáji Nalge Killédár, and Timáji Kesu Sabnavis, and Rudraji Sálvi, Superintendent of buildings of that place. He also appointed Vitthal Pil Dev Subhédár (Governor) of that country. Shiváji then marched to Arṇi on the Tirwaddi river. From that place he wrote a letter to Venkoji, expressing his regret that he had never the happiness of seeing him, and his hope that he would come and afford him the pleasure, for which he had come so far. Venkoji with his Diván Jagannáth and his whole army came and joined Shiváji. After their first meeting, which took place in a pagoda of Mahádev, the two brothers dined together off the same plate. In a private conversation Shiváji demanded from Venkoji half of the country of Chundi Chunjávar. Venkoji replied that he should have half of Chunjavár, provided he gave him half of his (Shiváji's) territories. Shiváji replied that the country which Venkoji held, was conquered by their father, but that he had himself conquered the country which he possessed, and, therefore, his, Venkoji's, demand was unreasonable. They continued to debate upon this subject for fifteen days. At last Venkoji told Shiváji that it was useless to talk any longer, but that he would call out his army and fight him. Shiváji endeavoured in vain to compose him, and Venkoji marched away towards Chundi Chunjávar. Shiváji sent Hambirráv Senápati, Mánáji Moré, Ṙupáji Bhonslá, and Anáji Raghunáth to accompany Venkoji as far as Chundi, from which place they were to return. When Venkoji arrived there, he gave those officers dresses and jewels, and dismissed them. After that Shiváji left his whole army with Raghunáth Pant and the Senápati to oppose Venkoji, and returned himself to his own country. He reached Panhála. Venkoji sent Jagannáth Pant his Diván, Bhivji Rája, Ráibanji Rája, and his other Chiefs with twenty thousand horse and fifty thousand infantry to attack Raghunáth Pant and the Senápati. For fifteen days successive actions took place between them; at length Shiváji's officers placed all their heavy equipment and baggage in the fort of Chundi Chuñjávar, and, having formed their army into four divisions, they succeeded in surrounding Venkoji. One day they made a furious attack on Venkoji's army and killed three thousand of his men. Venkoji's army then broke and fled. Jagannáth Pant, Bhivji Rája, Ráibanji Rája, and several other Chiefs were taken prisoners. About five hundred of Shiváji's troops were killed. After this defeat Venkoji agreed to give Shiváji half his country, and made peace. Venkoji also ceded to Shiváji the forts of Kolár, Bállápur, Mahárájgad, Jagdevgad, and Karnátakgad. In the country ceded to Shiváji, Indoji Bháskar, Subhánráv and Shri Nivangráv, who lived at Arni, had enjoyed jághírs to the amount of three lákhs of pagodas from the time of Sháháji. Shiváji continued these jághírs. Soon after Shiváji desired Raghunáth Pant to remain at Chundi and to send the whole army along with Humbirráv back to join him. Hambirráv accordingly marched to join Shiváji. The king of Bijápur sent Hussen Khán Afghan with ten thousand men to attack the Ráv, because the Ráv had attacked the fort

of Dewur which belonged to Bijápur. A severe action took place between them, and Hussen Khán was defeated and taken prisoner. On hearing of this event the king of Bijápur sent Lodi Khán with a large army to attack Hambirráv, but he also defeated Lodi Khán and took him prisoner. Humbirráv then took the forts of Ghondul and Bhahadurbanda, which belonged to Bijápur. Santáji Ghorparé and Bhyaji Ghorparé had distinguished themselves along with Hambirráv and received jághírs as rewards for their services. When Hambirráv joined Shiváji, he received additional rank and an increase to his jághír. At that time Gágábhatt Bráhman arrived from Benáres and put a *jánve* (sacred thread) on Shiváji's neck, placed him on the masnad, and made him Rája. This took place in the month of Chaitra (April) in the year 1596 of Shálivähán (A.D. 1674). After that Shiváji marched and plundered Jálnápur. Ranmast Khán came and opposed Shiváji. One day the Khán's troops made a furious attack on Shiváji's army. Sadoji Nimbálkar, a sardár over five thousand in Shiváji's service, was killed, and Shiváji was defeated and fled to the fort of Putta, to which he gave the name of Vishrámgad. After that Shiváji went to Ráigad, and after the Dasará sent his sardárs to collect Mulukgiri.[1] Shiváji was soon afterwards seized with a violent fever, which carried him off on the ninth day. His death happened in the year 1602 of the Shálivähán era (A.D. 1680). Shiváji, before he died, gave a paper, which he had written, to Moro Pant, Anáji Dattu Sabnavis, and Báhul Parbhu Chitnavis. At that time Shiváji's younger son Rája Rám was at Ráigad. His eldest son Sambháji was at Panhála. The officers to whom Shiváji had given the paper gave the government to Rája Rám. The other Chiefs were averse to this measure, and joined Sambháji. When Shiváji went to take half his share of Chundi Chunjávar in the year of Shálivähán 1595 (A.D. 1673) the goddess Bhawáni came into his body and remained there five hours, during which time she gave him a view of future events, viz., that all his dominions would fall into the hands of people with red faces; that Sambháji would be taken prisoner by the Mogals; that Rája Rám would succeed him on the masnad; that Shiváji would, in the course of time, come into the world again under a new form and extend his dominions to Delhi; and that dominion would remain in the Bhonslá family for twenty-seven generations: all this Raghunáth Náráyan Hunavanti and Dattoji Pant Wákarnavis and Báhul Parbhu Chitnavis committed to paper. Shiváji was born in the month of Vaishákh (May-June) and the year of Shálivähán 1549 (A.D. 1627) and died at Ráigad in the year 1602 of the Shálivähán era (A.D. 1680). He, therefore, lived fifty-three years; he had reigned on the masnad seventeen years, and had been engaged in conquest and plunder thirty-six years.

This account of Sháháji and Shiváji was in the fort of Ráigad. Mánko Bhimráv, Kulkarni (accountant) of the village of Rir, by desire of Náikji Kadam, Pátil (headman) of the village of Kamri, copied it from the Daftar-khánä (records) in that fort.

(Signed) E. J. FRISSELL.

Poona, 30th April 1806.

[1] The term Mulukgiri was applied to the periodical raids of a military force for the collection of tribute or revenue by intimidation or violence.

SIEGE

OF

BASSEIN BY THE MARÁTHÁS.

SIEGE OF BASSEIN BY THE MARA'THA'S.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 1st January 1739.

At a Consultation, present :

The Hon'ble John Horne, Esq., President and Governor.

George Percival. | Thomas Waters.

Thomas Stonestreet.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President communicates to the Board a letter he has received from the Portuguese General of the North couched in very opprobrious and disrespectful language, which is ordered to be entered after this consultation for the notice of our honourable masters.

JOHN HORNE.
G. PERCIVAL.
J. WATERS.
J. STONESTREET.

Letter from John Pereira Pinto, Commandant of Bassein and Provisional Governor of the North.

I received your letter dated the 18th of December, which is the second I have received, the first being one of advice of the death of my General Senhor Pedro d'Mello, and observe in both a treatment very little respectful and far different from what is expected amongst European nations from one Governor to another, though I do not take exception to the first as I thought you might not be acquainted, that on the failure of my General I governed the arms and places of this province. But seeing you continue the same, I am obliged to treat you only with the title of Vossa Merce instead of Vossa Senhoria as you do me, that I may suffer no diminution in my character and the authority of my nation.

I am mightily pleased that you remember the stipulations between our nations and the convention betwixt those who governed in this jurisdiction and those who governed your island, as well as the capitulations of peace agreed on between His Most Serene Majesty of Great Britain and my Sovereign when we gave him possession of your island.

You demand of me five Englishmen that, you tell me, are deserted over to this place (though there are but three and one Frenchman), and that it is just we should return them, as they are not guilty of treason, divine or human, as mutually ought to be done with regard to the common interest of both parties in case of the desertion of soldiers, slaves, mariners and servants who have not incurred certain penalties. Truly, you surprise me much in your declaration of this equal good harmony, when at the same time there are upon your island near one hundred Portuguese, many slaves and Káfris, fled from the dominions of my Sovereign, and lately two Portuguese from the Armada that went to attack the Fort dos Reys are actually in your service with the Company's pay, though they are not under the exception of any crimes as by agreement.

It is not then agreeable to reason that we should return four, when you will not (return) any of a number that you have of ours. By which I observe that at the same time you pretend equality you mean disequality, all which is not the terms of that good harmony, nor that reciprocal correspondence which you express should be between two nations so united and allied in Europe, and as I have given account of this matter to His Excellency the Count Viceroy, I expect from him the orders I am to follow.

As you write in yours of the good harmony we ought to keep up, you oblige me to tell you that so it ought to be, and no other, considering the inseparable alliance that in Europe my Sovereign maintains with His Most Serene Majesty of Great Britain. The interest of both kingdoms being reputed common, reciprocal, and so far is this stipulation confirmed, that when Spain was committed to a rupture with Portugal, His Most Serene Majesty of Great Britain were pleased to send a great Armada to the assistance of my Sovereign and to reside for long time at Lisbon, nor did it return to England till the differences with Spain were terminated; and when the ambassador of that monarchy residing at London complained to His Most Serene Majesty of Great Britain that the peace was infringed by the sending these succours, he received for an ultimate answer that whoever commenced a war with Portugal, declared it at the same time with England, as the interest and conveniency of both kingdoms were to be esteemed as one; and who could imagine that whilst my Sovereign in Europe experiences this singular kindness from that Most Serene Monarch, we in Asia should receive such treatment from you as we do in this present war with the Maráthás, with this yet great difference betwixt these parts and Europe, that there all nations are equal, and the Maráthás are idolators and the common enemies to all European nations. It is with great uneasiness I mention these things, nor should I do it but for just resentment, as we know for a certain that your island is continually furnishing the Maráthás with powder and ball, for in the winter season from the artillery with which the Maráthás fired against the town, the balls were all hammered, but since the spring they are cast, and with English marks. When our deceased General Pedro de Mello went to attack the Fort dos Reys, I know that from your island there went three gunners to Thána, and perhaps their expertness was the rod that caused our smart, and afterwards under a pretence that they were deserters, they were returned. The Maráthás not yielding to send back others that were really deserters now in Thána, but only those who were sent over on purpose.

The island of Versova is continually supplied by vessels from your island, with whatever it wants, as well with ammunition as other sorts. Thána is supplied in the same manner, in the fort of which are three warehouses of large capitals, full of Europe goods, and from other ports to be sold for the account of the proprietors on your island.

I am likewise, from a regard to our common interest, to tell you that the Maráthás have more at heart the conquest of your island, than they had that of ours, which now commands it; and which they invaded, under the colour of a peace equal to that you keep up with them now, both from the infidelity natural to that nation and from the certainty of the great riches and treasure they may get upon it. Notwithstanding which, in the way the war is continued at present, the Company will be quite ruined by the heavy charges you are incurring in the precaution and guard necessary to be kept, as well in the vessels for protecting the rivers, as in garrisons to man the shore, without other interest than to live in a seeming peace, and yet a continual apprehension of war, for which you are at an expense so unequal to the benefit, and so prejudicial a one otherwise, whilst some persons taste the sweets of this excessive cost to the Company, in the advantages they get by a trade with the Maráthás, without considering that the public interest ought to be preferred to any private one. And I hold it for indubitable that the gentlemen belonging to the Government of your island cannot but be sen-

sible that you must be ruined with us. If the Maráthás gain an establishment on the island of Sálsette, and that they only now keep peace with you for a present conveniency not to have at the same time two enemies on their back, reserving as soon as they have despatched one, to destroy the other with the greater facility; and I cannot conceive how you and the other gentlemen follow a maxim so contrary to sound reason and so prejudicial to the conservation of the dominion of your island.

I have intelligence that the Maráthás intend to build some grabs at the island of Versova, towards which they have sent to your island for carpenters and sawyers, remitting a sum of money for their pay beforehand, and to purchase iron to use in the building of these vessels, which iron is to be exported under the pretence of being disposed off at Gandevi and Bulsár, all which I acquaint you with, that you may provide a fitting remedy.

I have represented all these matters to you as they concern the dominions of my Sovereign and His Most Serene Majesty of Great Britain.

I am, &c.,
JOHN PEREIRA PINTO.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 11th January 1739.

Received advice that Kélve Máhím, a fort to the northward of Bassein belonging to the Portuguese, was taken by storm by the Maráthás, who were hereby masters of the countries of Shirgaon, Dáhánu and Kélve quite up to Tárápur, to which they have actually laid siege: another inconvenience from the loss of this place is, that it commands in a great measure the communication with Asheri, an important inland fortress belonging to the Portuguese.

Translate of MARTIN D'SYLVEIRA, *the General of the North's Letter to the President.*

I communicate to your Honor the advice I have received that the enemy, besides the large force they have got to carry on the siege and batteries of Tárápur have, with another body of troops, invested the fort of Versova, in the same manner, against which they have got cannon of 18-pounders, the preservation of which gives me not a little anxiety, considering the weakness of its walls. And though with relation to the fortifications and batteries of Bandora, I answered your Honor's proposal of demolishing them both, that I could not come to such a resolution without the express order of the Viceroy, I have since determined on sending to the fort of Bandora the Captain Commandant John d'Souza Ferras, in the same station he was in before; from the trust I repose in his person, that with your concurrence he may execute what may be most convenient for the service of the King my master.

So great is our necessity and want of provision in the place, having found little or none in it when I took charge of the government of this province, that I dare not trust waiting the return of the grabs I have sent to Daman in quest of a supply, after having drained the island of Karanja, as the Commandant of that place acquaints me was done in the time of my predecessor; and as I instantly expect the enemy at Dongrim with the same intentions as they are now in before Versova, I must apply to your Honor as General for His Most Serene Majesty of Great Britain to assist me with five hundred muráhs of batty,[1] or as much as you can spare, which I will either repay you in specie, out of what I expect from Daman, or in money at the price your Honor will advise me, with the incident expenses, besides being eternally obliged to your Honor, to whom I shall confess we owe in such case our preservation.

I am, &c.,
MARTIN D'SYLVEIRA.

Bassein, 5th February 1739.

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[1] Batty is rice in husk.

The President's Answer to the General of the North.

Sir,—I have this instant received your letter of the 5th of February, N. S., at the same time attended to the representation of Senhor John de Souza Ferras on your part. I observe with much concern and anxiety the progress of these Maráthás, whose principal aim appears to me is no less than the destruction of the European interest and dominion in these parts.

As to what concerns the demolition of the batteries and fortifications of Bandora, I should not have ever proposed such a step to you, but in the extreme necessity of present conjunctures, and it is very agreeable to me that your opinion concurs with mine in this matter for the common good of both our Governments, and conformable thereto I have despatched orders for the immediate demolition of the battery; and as the fortification of Bandora will require some days, before the mines can be in entire readiness to take effect, there shall be no care wanting to put that place out of danger of falling into the hands of these people.

In answer to your urgent request for a loan of "batty" I assure you with great truth that our island is entirely out of capacity to furnish any quantity, being itself in imminent danger of scarcity. We expect to procure a little from Surat and Scinde. However even that we cannot depend upon, neither from Mangalore nor from the Maráthás' countries do we think it possible to get the least quantity, through the rigorous prohibition of such exports from thence. And with all this, not many days ago, we relieved straits of our factory at Tellicherry at the hazard of disfurnishing our own selves with the quantity of near three hundred bales, so that we are now in extreme necessity ourselves, considering the number of people that it lies upon us to maintain and the store of grain it requires. Some days past I gave permission for exporting a convenient quantity of wheat to Bassein, and if any more can be procured and spared, I should not fail of accommodating you with all in my power. I have explained all these circumstances with the greater particularity, that you may not have any umbrage, or doubt left of my being extremely sensible to urgent necessities of your Government, and inclined to assist and succour you with all that is in my power and dependence, being well assured that these Maráthás finishing with you or perhaps before, will sooner or later proceed to the execution of their ill designs against our territories.

I am, &c.,
JOHN HORNE.

Bombay Castle, the 27th January 1739.

Bombay Castle, 10th February 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble John Horne, Esq., President and Governor,
Charles Whitehill. | Thomas Waters.
Thomas Stonestreet.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President acquaints the Board that last night he received advice that the Portuguese had abandoned the fort of Versova and that the Maráthás on their retreat to Bassein were actually in possession of that place, and that the siege of Bassein was more vigorously pressed than ever by a very considerable part of the Marátha army so as to be in imminent danger.

Mánáji A'ngria's gallivats[1] being out to the westward, and having committed several acts of hostility on vessels in their way to and from this island, and several belonging to this island being bound to Surat, the President proposes that the "Resolution" be employed in convoy to them, and that we direct the Chief and Factors at Surat to load on her when she returns the cotton they have in warehouse designed for Bengal, which is agreed.

And for enabling the gentlemen to carry on the current investment and make good the remittances ordered to Bengal, agreed that we cannot have a safer opportunity of supplying them by this ship, whereupon it is ordered that one hundred thousand rupees be sent on her, which Messrs. Percival and Whitehill are desired to see counted and packed.

Messrs. Water and Hope, who were to have proceeded to Surat on the "Robert", have leave to go on the "Resolution".

The brass guns contracted for by Mánáji for Teg-beg-Khán are ordered to be sent on this conveyance, and likewise the ten tons of copper received from England by the "Nassaw", in view of procuring a market for them there.

JOHN HORNE.
CHARLES WHITEHILL.
THOMAS WATERS.
THOMAS STONESTREET.

Bombay Castle, 14th February 1739.

The President received a letter from the Viceroy of Goa, dated 15th February 1739, N. S., advising that the Maráthás are masters at the island of Sálsette, where they are so destitute of men, being drained by succours sent up to the North, that he apprehends it will be with the utmost difficulty they will be able to defend Goa itself should they attack it vigorously, more especially as Khem Sávant and the Sundar Rája had, through fear or other means, declared against them, and joined the Marátha party. He requests in the most pressing terms our assisting them with men and ammunition with all expedition, lest the succours should come too late; adding that their preservation or destruction will depend greatly on our resolution with regard to them on this occasion.

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[1] A gallivat was an armed pattemar: the word is a corruption of the Marátha word *galbat*, a ship.

Orme describes as follows the grabs and gallivats of his day :—The grabs have rarely more than two masts, although some have three, and are about 300 tons; but the two-masted grabs are not more than 150 tons. They are built to draw very little water, being very broad in proportion to their length, narrowing, however, from the middle of the bows, where they have a prow, projecting like that of a Mediterranean galley, and covered with a strong deck level with the main deck of the vessel, from which, however, it is separated by a bulkhead which terminates the forecastle; as this construction subjects the grab to pitch violently when sailing against a head sea, the deck of the prow is not enclosed with sides, as the rest of the vessel is, but remains bare, that the water which dashes upon it may pass off without interception. On the main deck, under the forecastle, are mounted two pieces of cannon, nine or twelve pounders, which point forward through the port-holes cut in the bulkhead and fire over the prow; the cannon on the roadside are from six to nine pounders. The gallivats are large row boats built like the grab, but of smaller dimensions, the largest rarely exceeding seventy tons. They have two masts, of which the mizen is very slight, the main mast bears only one sail, which is triangular and very large, the peak of it when hoisted being much higher than the mast itself. In general the gallivats are covered with a spar deck made for lightness of split bamboos, and these carry only 'petteraroes' which are fixed on swivels in the gunwale of the vessel; but those of the larger size have a fixed deck on which they mount six or eight pieces of cannon, from two to four pounders; they have forty to fifty stout oars, and may be rowed four miles an hour.—Orme's History of Hindustan, Vol. 1, p. 408.

Bombay Castle, 16th February 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble John Horne, Esq., President and Governor.
W. George Percival. | Charles Whitehill.
Thomas Stonestreet.

Read and approved our last consultation.

Read the last advices from the Coast Settlements, and from the Presidency of Fort William, extracted under the 13th instant.

The President recapitulates to the Board the substance of the Viceroy's letter and his answer thereto, the purport whereof is as follows, which is approved of:—

That he has received His Excellency's letter and is extremely concerned at the situation he is in. That this Presidency now surrounded with the same enemies (the Maráthás) has not absolutely men to spare from the defence of the island itself, or dare send out the fleet for fear of being too weak in its absence. That we might strain so far as to spare a few warlike stores, but that we have no conveyance to send them down upon. That he desires His Excellency to consider our own situation, and to believe as it is really true that we do not want inclination to assist him in this present distress, but abilities.

Adjourned.

JOHN HORNE.
W. G. PERCIVAL.

Bombay Castle, 20th February 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble John Horne, Esq., President and Governor.
W. George Percival. | Charles Whitehill.
Thomas Stonestreet.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President desires this Meeting to communicate to the Board the contents of two letters received yesterday from Bassein, one from the General of the North, Martinho d'Sylveira, and the other from Caetano de Souza, an officer of distinction, and Commandant of the town of Bassein.

The first, from Martinho d'Sylveira, General of the North, dated the 28th instant, N. S., gratefully acknowledges the President's timely advice of a general attack on the town designed to be made by the Maráthás on Friday the 16th instant, which had been confirmed to him by other hands; and advises that the Marátha army commanded by Chimnáji is still before the town, to which they lay close siege. That notwithstanding an incessant fire kept upon them they had carried on their approaches by sap and mines to the very foundation of the wall, which, the besieged perceive, it is their intention to mine. That their engineer's opinion is that as the nature of the ground does not permit their works to penetrate any depth, the throwing of bombs and combustible matter must destroy their approaches. But not being willing to rely on one man's opinion, he requests that our engineers be consulted about the means of countermining and ruining their works underground, which, however superficial, he is not without apprehensions may damage the wall.

He takes notice of the opposition complained of by the President from the Superiors of the Jesuits at Bandora against blowing up their college, which he does not know how to give an answer to, as he cannot understand how that ought to subsist when the bastions are blown up.

He concludes with a request of a supply of granadoes, powder, and ammunition for the defence of the place, their late expenses during twelve days' firing without intermission having greatly lessened their store; offering withal payment of the amount, and to send a vessel of force to convey it to Bassein.

The letter from Caetano d'Souza, dated the 1st of March 1739, N. S., acquaints the President with his succeeding to the command of the town by the death of John Xavier Pinto, killed by a musquet shot in the throat. That the Maráthás have carried on mines and covered ways and other approaches to the very foundation of the wall, their batteries being very near the town. That they throw large stones into the place from mortars. Notwithstanding all which he hopes to preserve the town from falling into the enemy's hands, having made all the necessary preparations and dispositions to disappoint the effect of their mines or sap. That the continual fire they have been driven to, has diminished their ammunition, insomuch that without our assistance in that point the town would be in the greatest danger; and therefore he makes earnest suit for a supply of four hundred barrels of powder and five thousand shot of different sizes.

The President then proceeds to acquaint the Board that in compliance with the General of the North's request he had ordered our engineer Mr. John Brown and the bombardier Mr. Joseph Smith to be consulted on the Maráthás' project of mining, and the means to disappoint it, in order to transmit their opinions as desired.

Being made acquainted with the nature of the ground on which Bassein stands, which is a loose sand, and on the seaside, where the water does not permit a mine of any depth, they agree in opinion, that allowing for not having seen Bassein or a plan of it, but on information of the thickness of the walls, they judge no mine can be carried to depth enough in the ground to injure or endanger the walls, and that as their works must be superficial, the best way to annoy them is by sally or raining shells plentifully on them.

Their request of a supply of ammunition falls next under consideration, and it is unanimously agreed that the suffering Bassein to be lost for want of any assistance we could possibly spare without leaving ourselves destitute, would not only afford matter of just reproach for deserting an European nation allied and in friendship with our Sovereign, but be of the worst consequence to the interest and welfare of this island.

The President then lays before the Board a state of our stores of powder, shot and granadoes, furnished by the storekeeper, for a consideration of the quantity of these articles that may be safely spared, and which, the Portuguese are to be acquainted, are supplied them with the utmost difficulty and risque.

It appears, then, that our stock of granadoes is too small to afford any draught from them, but that we may venture to supply them with two hundred barrels of powder and four thousand shot of the sizes undermentioned:—

Round shot	8-pounders	... ...	1,000
Do.	5½ do.	... ...	2,000
Do.	4 do.	... ...	1,000
		In all ...	4,000

The President then presents to the Board his intended answers to the two letters extracted in this consultation, and they are approved of, being in substance adapted to the circumstances above set forth.

The President likewise communicates to the Board two letters from John d'Souza Ferras, Commandant of Sálsette, demonstrating the obstruction he meets with from the Superiors of Bandora in completing the works for the entire demolition of that place, threatening him with the worst of consequences if he goes on with them, the President himself having before received a sort of protest against the same from the Superiors aforesaid.

Upon which it is remarked that the power and influence of the Society is so great that this Commandant dares not execute the orders given him by the General of the North. And that to leave the college standing may be of great disservice to this island, affording the Maráthás a convenient retreat or place of arms, whence they may greatly incommodate us, and that since the evident benefit to both nations consists in destroying the place, an expedient be tried to bring the Padres to reason by refusing them the protection of this Government for their persons and effects, which they may keep at their college and defend against the Maráthás, or upon abandoning it leave us at liberty to pursue our measures for the safety of our frontier without engaging us in a controversy with the Portuguese Government. And the Secretary is ordered to repair to Bandora to enforce and explain our sentiments of the Padres' conduct, as well as to excite John d'Souza Ferras to the performance of his orders in full.

JOHN HORNE.
W. G. PERCIVAL.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 5th March 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble John Horne, Esq., President and Governor.
W. George Percival. | Thomas Stonestreet.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President acquaints the Board that this meeting is purposely held to communicate to them the measures he had immediately taken on intelligence that a number of gallivats were in Pen river, where he was advised they might be either wholly destroyed or at least considerably damaged; upon which he had appointed Captain Inchbird to conduct this attempt with the two prahms,[1] bomb ketch,[2] and all the gallivats; which in case of success would greatly weaken him and deprive him of the means of cruising on our boat trade which he has lately much distressed; as well as prevent any use or assistance from his gallivats to the Maráthás in their designs upon this island; but that he had expressly cautioned Captain Inchbird not to engage or hazard our vessels on this attempt without a reasonable prospect of succeeding, and as the effecting such an enterprise is visibly for the welfare and service of the island, the President's measures are approved and agreed to, and the vessels are getting under weigh accordingly.

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[1] Prahm for the Dutch *praam*, a flat-bottomed boat.

[2] Ketches—Vessels with two masts, a main and mizen mast; the main mast, which is commonly placed near the middle of the vessel, is similar to that of a ship; the mizen commonly carries a square top sail and gaff sail; the bow-sprit rigged similar to that of a ship and carries several jibs and stay sails. This rig was formerly applied to bomb-vessels for the convenience of firing the mortar and to yachts; but it is a rig that is now seldom applied but to small vessels.—John Fincham's Masting Ships and Mast-making, p. 291.

The President then communicates to the Board a proposal made him by sundry inhabitants of the island of Karanja to take possession of and hold the same for the Hon'ble Company; and this proposal being now taken into consideration, it is first observed that this tender comes only from a few private people without authority or powers sufficient to treat of or conclude such a matter, which therefore is no foundation to proceed upon. But admitting that the necessity to be urged from the situation and conveniency of that island together with its surrender from the Portuguese to an enemy, which must inevitably happen, gives us a right to seize it for ourselves, we apprehend the attempt in our present circumstances is no wise or prudent step to risque, for the following reasons:—

It would require the raising at least twelve or fifteen hundred men to dislodge the troops now on Karanja with Mánáji in person. And though it is probable we might carry it through with success, unless opposed by the Maráthás, yet as a sufficient force could not be got together to that effect without disarming our passes, and that the President has certain intelligence of a large number of Maráthás assembled at Marol, apparently with no good intention, such a step might, and probably would be, attended with bad consequences to our island, as it is reasonable to suspect the Maráthás would attack our passes when they find them unguarded.

Nor would our seizure or taking of the island be attended with any such secure maintenance, but that the charges must exceed the revenue so long as the Maráthás continue in the neighbourhood, which we are sure our hon'ble masters would be little inclined to support.

The fort itself in its present condition is entirely untenable, being a large, ruinous fortification, and commanded by a neighbouring eminence, so that a new one would be necessary for the preservation of the place, which the Maráthás would not fail of attacking, as they consider it as part of the Portuguese domain, and even now avow that Mánáji A'ngria has taken possession of it for them. In which case it would require at least twelve hundred men, with competent ammunition and stores, to garrison it with any hopes of holding it, especially since the Ágris, or salt labourers, who made a body from seven to eight hundred men well armed, and were chiefly depended upon for the defence of the place, are gone over to the enemy; and they indeed were the means of the enemy's introduction.

All which considered, though we cannot but be sensible of the great inconvenience of this new neighbourhood to the place, it is agreed, that we forbear any attempt of this sort that may either endanger the safety of our own island or involve us in increased charges.

Adjourned.

JOHN HORNE,
W. GEORGE PERCIVAL,
THOMAS STONESTREET.

Bombay Castle, 24th March 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble John Horne, Esq., President and Governor.

William George Percival. | Charles Whitehill.

Thomas Stonestreet.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President then lays before the Board translate of a letter from the General of the North, Martin d'Sylveira, dated Bassein, the 2nd of April 1739, New Style, which is as follows:—

"Bassein, 2nd April 1739, N.S.

Sir,—The bearer of this is the Captain Commandant John d'Souza Ferras, who will in person give your Honor an account of his arrival in this city, and of the treaty set on foot with Antáji Raghunáth Kávle, and the result of it, and likewise of the motive which obliges me to send him (John d'Souza) to your island with instructions to request of your Honor your protection in the extreme consternation this place is in, belonging to the King of Portugal my master, being now without hopes of succour from Goa, either of men, ammunition, or money; and as your Honor is the same who in your Government stood by and assisted the Siddis of Dunda-Rájápur[1] to prevent their entire ruin, I persuade myself you will with more reason assist my nation on the same terms you did the Siddi (the Habshi), and in this certainty I come to a resolution of requesting your Honor on account of the Hon'ble Company to lend this city in the name of all its inhabitants that he states, or to the King my master on a mortgage of his royal dominion, one hundred thousand xeraphins for the payment of his troops with the greatest security. Your Honor can desire even to have your payment secured in Portugal should there, for our sins, be no lands or revenues left us in these parts to pay you out of. And I must beg your Honor to take notice that I do not make this supplication to your Honor but at a time that in this city I have no resource left to apply to, having already a long time melted down the church plates to carry on the expense of the war, and on these considerations, and that otherwise our ruin is inevitable, I have recourse to your Honor in quality of Acting Governor of the Company's Estate, that in virtue of the alliance betwixt our Sovereigns you will assist this place with the loan of the above sum on the terms that yourself shall set, either for the present or future. I wait your answer that I may take measures accordingly.

I am, &c.,
MARTIN d'SYLVEIRA de MENEZES."

The President requesting opinion of the Board what answer is proper to give on this occasion. It appears to us that however deeply we have reasons to be affected with the deplorable state of the Portuguese and that though their ruin, which will be inevitable in case of the Maráthás reducing Bassein, will probably be attended with the worst consequences to this island, yet in respect to the restrictions we are under we cannot hazard such a sum of money as requested, and it is agreed therefore that the President write a handsome excuse for the present, referring a definitive answer till the arrival of a ship from Great Britain, which is daily expected.

JOHN HORNE.
W. PERCIVAL.
T. STONESTREET.

Bombay Castle, Sunday, 25th March 1739.

The demolition of Bandora took place this day, it being blown up, with the consent of all parties—our, the Portuguese, and the Maráthás,—which last had often pressed the President by letters and messages to have it effected.

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[1] The chief town of Habsán opposite the fort of Janjira.

Bombay Castle, 16th April 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

W. CHARLES RIGBY.	THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN GEEKIE.	JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President communicates to the Board the pressing instances he has received in two letters from the Viceroy to assist Bassein and Chaul, (at least the former,) with money and munitions of war; and especially one letter from Caetano d'Souza demanding in the name of his Portuguese Majesty a loan for one hundred thousand rupees, and a very large supply of military stores, such a one as this place could not possibly afford in its present situation without evident danger and imprudence. And the said demands being taken into consideration it is unanimously agreed that we have not authority sufficient from our hon'ble masters to hazard any loan but at the risque of our own fortunes, as may be evident from the strict tenor of their orders. That we will readily afford them whatever stores we can answer sparing from the demand of our own garrisons, and they can pay, or give sufficient security for; and the President is accordingly desired to explain to the Commandant of the North the restriction the constitution of our Government lays us under, the readiness we are in to furnish whatever assistance to them we can without disobedience to our superiors or endangering the safety of our own island contrary to the trust reposed in us. Being otherwise justly sensible of their distress and willing to assist and relieve them.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
W. C. RIGBY.
J. M. W. SEDGWICKE.

Bombay Castle, Tuesday, 17th April 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

WILLIAM CHARLES RIGBY.	JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.	JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

The President acquaints the Board that he has summoned this meeting expressly to lay before them the repeated application from the Portuguese for some assistance of money and stores, being reduced to the utmost extremities, and in imminent danger of losing Bassein, their capital city in the North, without our immediate compliance with their demand, and to desire their opinion whether and how far this extraordinary emergency may justify us to our hon'ble masters should we venture affording them a small supply to prevent the instant loss of that town.

The President goes on to remark that however direct or positive their orders may be against hazarding any part of their estate in foreign loans on any pretext whatever, yet in this case some expedient appears unavoidably necessary to come into, for the assistance of these people, especially in the present conjunctures.

It being observable that the Maráthás have hitherto given us no opportunity of making any overtures for settling a peace or friendly correspondence with this Government, and that on their reduction of Bassein we have just reasons to apprehend they may give us annoyance, the preservation of that city appears to be greatly for the interest and safety of this island. And if it should be forced to surrender immediately for want of a small and seasonable relief, besides the reproach we might give room for in dealing too hardly with a nation so strictly allied to ours in Europe, the troops of these Maráthás are too near our island not to justify our entering upon some measures to prevent their designs, or at least gain time, by enabling the Portuguese to support themselves till the rains set in, when the enemy will not be able to continue in their trenches before the town, and possibly a favourable crisis may ensue, and the Maráthás be either called off by the approach of Sháh Nadir's troops, or on the success of an embassy sent from Goa to the Sháhu Rája be obliged to give over their siege.

On all considerations, then, it is unanimously agreed, that the trust reposed in us of consulting above every thing the interest of our hon'ble masters, in the security and preservation of this place, requires our venturing a loan on this occasion even at the hazard of our own private fortunes, in case of the same being disallowed by our employers. Accordingly it is resolved that a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand rupees be advanced the Portuguese, taking such security as may be got for re-payment of the same on the Hon'ble Company's account. And the President is desired to signify to the Portuguese Commandant that this is done by way of private contribution, and not in contradiction to the refusal we were limited to in our public capacities.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
W. C. G. SEDGWICKE.

Bombay Castle, 1st May 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble Stephen Law, Esq., President and Governor.

W. Charles Rigby.	Thomas Stonestreet.
John Geekie.	John Morley.

William Sedgwicke.

Read and approved our last consultation.

Read the translate of two letters from Caetano d'Souza, Commandant in the North for his Portuguese Majesty, to the President, both dated Bassein, the 6th of May 1739, (New Style,) as entered after this consultation.

And the same being duly considered we come to the following resolutions thereon:—

That we will accept of the pledge tendered in plate or wrought silver, and will advance the amount of its intrinsic value, redeemable within the term of one year, without interest.

That whatever brass guns are not absolutely necessary to the defence of the place we shall be the more willing to accept on the like terms, as we are not without great apprehensions of the place falling soon into the Maráthás' hands, when the cannon found there will proportionally strengthen and enable them to carry on any further designs they may have.

That we cannot admit of the proclamation referred to in the said letters being affixed or otherwise published in the manner he desires, as such a practice is repugnant to the forms and authority of our own Government. Much less can we suffer, or connive at any compulsive measures to be used with their subjects that have taken refuge here, it being inconsistent with the liberty and privileges granted to all who take proceedings under this Government, though we shall gladly give all encouragement in our power to promote all voluntary contributions and assistance to them in their present distress.

That we will spare them whatever stores they may want for the defence of the city and without unfurnishing this place. That any bricklayers or carpenters they may procure here to go voluntarily upon their service at Bassein shall have free liberty to repair thither. And the President is accordingly desired to answer the letters above mentioned.

Debating what price to fix on the stores to be spared them from this Presidency, it is observed by the President that as the sparing these stores in order to save or at least enable the city of Bassein to hold out some time longer, is either a point of profit or favour (consulting as we do in it chiefly our own safety and interest), we ought in this case to omit the charging of the twenty per cent. advance, usual on stores sold to any but the Hon'ble Company's servants, by which remission the Portuguese will gain a fifth in the quantity to be furnished them, and consider the same as a real and timely obligation; which the Board concurs and agrees to.

The President then lays before the Board the necessity of making some immediate provision for the fortifying and further securing our town wall, which on a survey appears to be in a most defenceless condition; that, however strict the Hon'ble Company's orders appear against entering on any expensive building, they are on the other hand as strong for omitting nothing towards the safety and preservation of this their island. That for his part, in the present visible ill state of the fortifications round the town, he should ill discharge his duty if he pretended to answer for the security of the place till some requisite additions be made to strengthen and secure it. And as nothing occurs more fit for the purpose, or more necessary than a ditch to be run round the town wall which might serve well enough when we had no enemy to dread a siege from, but in such case is absolutely incapable of resistance. It is proposed, in order to estimate the expense, that a stated measure of ground be opened in a fitting place to a certain depth and breadth (as the ditch shall be judged proper to have), and a report of its charge be made to calculate the whole by on a mean, and the Board agreeing thereto, Resolved,—That, considering the danger of further delay in this matter, no time be lost in setting about this work.

STEPHEN LAW.
CHARLES RIGBY.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Letter from Caetano d'Souza Pereira *to the* President *and* Governor *of* Bombay.

Sir,—I received your Excellency's letter of the 28th April in answer of the 22nd of the same month, in which I had requested of your Excellency in the name of His Most Serene Majesty of Portugal the loan of one hundred thousand rupees, as likewise some assistance of ammunition

in the consternation and extremities to which this place is reduced, upon which matter your Excellency is pleased to write me that such assistance does absolutely not depend on you to give, notwithstanding your friendly disposition to favour and assist our nation, which expressions I hold for true and sincere, as I know the particular regard and consideration you have always shown to it. But seeing this place cannot absolutely preserve itself without succours from abroad, and that I can obtain them nowhere but from your Excellency, as well by reason of the mutual union betwixt our two nations as of the interest your island has in our preservation, considering the great and dangerous consequences that may result from our ruin, as your Excellency clearly and distinctly comprehends, I must again importune your Excellency in the hopes that your generosity and good disposition will be against the losing this place, and the capital of this province, whilst it lies so near a nation which in Europe maintains a strict friendship with us, and who do want for means to prevent a ruin of a place of such importance.

Your Excellency is not unapprized that in your island there are several vassals of this State, who have taken refuge thither from several parts with effects to a considerable amount, and have resided under your Government with what they had thus brought away, though the greatest part of it did not belong to them. Upon which matter the Senate of this city has been convened with the prelates of our religious orders and private persons. Your Excellency's letter was laid before them, with the want of necessaries to defend the place. Upon which it was unanimously agreed then that recourse should be had to these refugees, and that extraordinary and even forcible means should be used with them: and that in the meantime whilst these effects should be thus withheld by persons taking refuge under other jurisdictions, application should be made to those Governments, with request of their favour and assistance in getting a loan to the royal treasury, as your Excellency will see by copy enclosed of an Act of Council in the said Senate, as it is agreeable to our rights and laws that vassals shall be obliged to furnish such assistance to their King and his officers that have lawful authority to oblige them to it.

I am certainly informed, that on your island the persons named in the accompanying list are with considerable effects, of which they are subject to render account as well, because they do not belong to them, as by reason of their vassalage. And as this benefit to us cannot be obtained without your Excellency's favour and protection intervening to that effect, knowing your particular desire to assist and favour our nation, I request that your Excellency will be pleased to permit or give leave for search to be made in the houses of the persons named in the said list, giving order for all assistance and favour to the officers I send on this employment, or, that our end may be happily and with more ease obtained as well as with less noise, that your Excellency will be pleased to send for them before you, and order them to give a faithful account of what they have in their possession, that on discovery of the amount, which must not be inconsiderable, it may be used as a pledge for payment of the ammunitions which the place is in want of, and which your Excellency tells me are ready on our paying the value or giving security for it.

In this city, on our using extraordinary measures in virtue of the above-mentioned Act of Council, we have discovered a small parcel of plate, which I likewise am determined to apply to the payment for ammunitions and warlike stores that your Excellency may grant me. But as the plate belongs to the churches, and that a considerable loss will arise on breaking it down, I would fain know of your Excellency if the Company would allow such a benefit to our State as the taking it in pawn for a debt to the amount of its intrinsic value without interest, or whether it is necessary that it should be sold, that I may remit it weighed with exactness, trusting that your Excellency will in this matter, as in all others, act for the best in favour of the urgent necessities this place is at present reduced to.

But however, in case that all this is not sufficient to engage an assistance in our present extreme distress, so that the Company may have security for what was furnished to this place, I offer your Excellency some pieces of brass ordnance of large calibres, either in payment or pawn for the debt. Having this consideration, that it is most becoming my nation that it should be known to the world how, for the preservation of their King's city, it was stripped of its artillery (the principal instruments of its defence), whilst they put their trust more in their personal valour, in their constant fidelity and zeal, than in the extraordinary force or hardness of metal; so that if your Excellency will please to accept of the pledge, on advice from your Excellency I will send the pieces of ordnance that may be necessary to pay the debt incurred. But if to all these proposed measures your Excellency or your Council shall object to, as inconvenient, I have no others, nor any recourse besides for the preservation of this place. I hope that your Excellency, considering the reasons above declared and the fatal ruin we must otherwise undergo, will consent, at least for the service of His Most Serene Majesty of Portugal, to succour us with some ammunition to enable us to persist in the defence of this place, for the payment of which His Majesty will be bound by his agent, and all his vassals, as I have written your Excellency in my last letter, if they have not lost all credit and respect with your nation, which they are so careful to preserve.

By reason of the great want of people for the defence and service of this place, through the dispersion of a number of our vassals in different parts, I came to a resolution of publishing a proclamation recalling them all with their effects within the term of fifteen days, under penalties in case of contravention: and as several persons have represented to me their apprehension of trouble in obeying this order for fear of their creditors, considering it as my duty to consult in these conjunctures what may be most useful to the King's service, I have ordered another proclamation to be published of indemnity in such cases, as your Excellency may see by copies enclosed of such proclamations; and that they may meet with due observance, I request of your Excellency the allowance of free leave for all vassals of this State to return to this place without impediment or molestation to their persons and effects that they may bring with them, permitting likewise that these proclamations may be published on your island to remove any pretext of ignorance, considering that great advantage may accrue from this expedient to the King's service and towards the preservation of the place, the enemy's approaches to which and method of attack may appear more clearly to your Excellency by our officers' delineation and report which are now sent for your Excellency's observation.

I am, &c.,

Bassein, the 6th May 1739. CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 7th May 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble Stephen Law, Esq., President and Governor.

W. Charles Rigby.	Thomas Stonestreet.
John Geekie.	John Morley.

William Sedgwicke.

The President acquaints the Board that yesterday he received the melancholy news of the capitulations being signed the $\frac{5}{16}$ instant for the surrender of the city of Bassein to Chimnáji, the Marátha General, in the term of one week,—that is to say, on the $\frac{12}{23}$ instant,—occasioned, as the President is well informed from different parts, by the success of the mines which the Maráthás sprung on the cortines and bastions to the number of twelve or thirteen. It is observable that the place is so situated and surrounded with water that only three out of the eleven bastions were subject to be attacked, and the mines made such breaches in two of them as rendered the storming

very practicable, which the Maráthás attempted with the utmost fury and resolution, being repulsed several times and as often returned to the attack, and at length gained lodgments on the bastions. The Portuguese being tired and harassed with so warm an action, which first and last held two days, having several of their officers and many people killed and their ammunition nearly exhausted, and observing the place was no longer tenable against such numbers, hoisted a white flag, and sent one of their officers to treat of a surrender with Chimnáji, who allowed them the space of a week to evacuate the town on most honourable conditions as may appear by a translate of the capitulations which follows this consultation for the notice and observation of our honourable masters.

The Commandant of the North, Caetano d'Souza Pereira, having made application to the President for assistance from this Governmeut of boats and vessels to bring away the inhabitants and their effects according to the terms of their capitulations, orders had been given immediately to prepare what numbers of boats could be procured to be sent to Bassein to assist them in this distressful conjuncture, and the "Prince of Wales" and three gallivats were appointed to convey them safe from any attempts on the sea, which this Board unanimously approve of.

Resolved likewise that as the Commandant of the North is obliged to seek harbour here with his people till the rainy season is over, the most honourable reception be given him and a lodging be prepared for him suitable to his station, and also accommodations as can be got for lodging his people—a treatment we think due to a nation in friendship with ours, especially in their present distressed and deplorable condition.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
W. SEDGWICK.

Translate of the Capitulations on the part of Caetano d'Souza Pereira, Commandant of the city and fort of Bassein, for the surrender of the place to Chimnáji Appa, General-in-Chief of the Sháhu Rája's army, now before the town, under the following clauses and conditions :—

1. The said Chimnáji Appa shall permit free passage out of the town to all troops, as well regular as auxiliaries, with their arms in order, drums beating and colours flying, also with four pieces of cannon and two mortars.

2. He shall likewise grant free passage out to all the noble families that are now in the town, with all their moveables and effects, as also to all the Christians, Gentoos and Moors who do not choose to remain in the place, and that with all their goods and effects.

3. He shall permit free and unmolested passage out of the port of this place to all vessels of war now in it, with their artillery, and provided at all points for defence, as well as to all other embarkations, gallivats, &c., whose owners do not choose to remain in the place.

4. He shall furnish all the vessels that may be wanted (charges paid) to convey away to Bombay, Chaul or Daman as well the noble families as the common people, with all in general that choose to leave the place, with their goods and effects, which they shall carry with them; and shall engage that Angria shall not rob or strip them of what they carry, upon the sea, until they have arrived at their destined port.

5. He shall likewise grant free passage to all in religious orders, and to the priests in general (who do not choose to remain in the place), with leave to carry off their goods and effects such as they may not sell beforehand.

6. He shall permit the shipping off and carrying out of the place all victualling stores and munitions of war in the town, belonging to the inhabitants and defenders; and in general all

treasure in gold or silver, with every one's provisions and moveables, as likewise every thing belonging to the churches of whatever sort or value.

7. That the Christians who remain voluntarily in the place shall enjoy the liberty of worshipping God in the faith they profess, as likewise all over the district belonging to that jurisdiction, without being robbed or stripped of what they have got. The same is to be observed in every respect with the Gentoos and Moors that shall choose to stay behind, each according to his law.

8. The said Chimnáji shall forthwith release all the prisoners in his power, that they may have the benefit of coming away in my company. And I will restore all that I have got, for him to dispose of as he thinks proper, in return for those of our side.

9. On the day appointed for the garrison's evacuating the place, which is the 23rd of May (N.S.), his army shall retreat to Madrápur (Mánikpur ?) that I may with my troops go over the walls and embark free of any fear of molestation from his army.

10. Chimnáji Appa himself shall engage not to enter the town with his troops till I am safely embarked with mine and all the people that go with me, and got out of the reach of the artillery of the place.

11. Chimnáji Appa shall purchase whatever provisions, moveables, or effects the inhabitants or others in the place may have and want to sell, by the means of persons of credit or trust, and to that end shall send into the town thirty such persons, or Banyans, to agree the price, paying the value to the proprietors, and receiving the things so purchased.

12. That whilst Chimnáji Appa shall be in possession of this city, he shall for ever maintain the privilege of three churches within it—one in the town, one in the district, and one on the island of Sálsette—for the Christians that shall remain in the said city or places stipulated for, where they may freely exercise all the acts of their religion, and the said churches shall with their curates be subject to the most Illustrious and Reverend Primate of India, for him to settle their proper jurisdiction for the cultivation of the said Christianity. And whatever images that I may leave behind, of such as I cannot carry with me, shall be suffered to remain in the said churches with the most necessary ornaments for adorning them.

And for the security of the performance of all the above articles of capitulations the said Chimnáji Appa shall sign the same according to his custom, and shall likewise confirm and ratify them with his own seal and that of Bájiráv, General of all the troops of the Sháhu Rája, which being executed, the said Chimnáji Appa shall send one of his principal commanders, to my satisfaction, to remain as an hostage on board a vessel of war in the channel of the bar of this place, out of the reach of the artillery; and for the security of such an officer I will send him of mine to stay in his army till these stipulations have been performed, when I will return him his officer in exchange of mine.

And likewise as soon as he has ratified these capitulations he shall order his people to retire from the foot of the walls into their batteries and trenches, to the distance of twenty paces: evacuating also the breaches, leaving in each the number of twenty men. In the interim there shall be no innovation on either side, or any new work be carried on.

(Signed) CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bassein, 16th May 1739, N.S.

I, Chimnáji Appa, accept of the above articles of surrender, except the sixth, relating to the munitions of war which I will purchase; and the ninth, which I will not engage for; and for the ratification thereof I set my seal to them in my camp before Bassein the 16th of May 1739, N.S.

Bombay Castle, 10th May 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble Stephen Law, Esq., President and Governor.

W. Charles Rigby. | John Geekie.
Thomas Stonestreet. | John Morley.

William Sedgwicke.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President then represents to the Board that the passes of the island although rendered as defensible as they can be made at present, yet in his opinion as the boats now employed in the river may easily by the means of batteries be compelled to retire, and as the extent is very open and great in many places, the enemy might on being fully determined get on the island, and on such an unfortunate circumstance happening, it is too evident that the town wall being no more than eleven feet in height, reckoning up to the cordon and the cortines no more than * *, and it seems unfit for the resistance of batteries, which is confirmed by the opinion of the Engineer, besides the cocoanut trees in great numbers as well as houses are so near the wall, that great annoyance may ensue therefrom through the shelter they would give, exclusive of there being a necessary material at hand for raising the works; and therefore he recommends to the consideration of the Board whether it may not be absolutely necessary to provide in the speediest manner for the security possible in the present situation of a most extended wall—low, thin, and crowded with the neighbourhood of trees and houses. Some of the members apprehending this motion to be of great importance desire time to consider of it, and are indulged till to-morrow to give their sentiments.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 29th June 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble Stephen, Law, Esq., President and Governor.

William Charles Rigby. | John Geekie.
Thomas Stonestreet. | John Morley.

William Sedgwicke.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President then remarks to the Board that our present situation admits of no longer delays in coming to some resolution for or against the carrying on a ditch round the town wall. That the principal merchants of the place, convinced of the necessity of putting the town thereby in some state of defence, have subscribed the sum of thirty thousand rupees towards the expense

* Illegible.

of this work, as may appear by their hands set to an instrument now laid before the Board, as entered after this consultation, and which is as much as can be expected from that body, considering the low declined state of trade. And whereas for the reasons set down in our consultation of the 1st May last, a resolution passed the Council for estimating the charge of this undertaking by a stated measure of ground to be opened to a certain depth and breadth by which the expense of the whole might be calculated, and no report thereof having yet been made, the failure herein is owing to the rains setting in, which would not admit of digging to a competent depth, so that there was a necessity of having recourse to another method of computation, which, admitting the ditch to have fifty feet in breadth upon fourteen in depth, will bring out the charge at about eighty-five to ninety thousand rupees. It remains, then, to consider and determine in this matter what is most expedient for the Hon'ble Company's interest in this island.

Our present insecurity through the weak fortifications round the town is fully set forth in our consultations of the 1st and 10th May last, and as the same is apparent and evident to every member of this Board, the security and preservation of the island and the tranquillity and protection of the inhabitants being thus essentially reposed in this Government, and this addition of a ditch to the town wall being the only method that appears necessary to strengthen our defence, the question is proposed to the members severally for their respective assents, and is carried in the affirmative, Mr. Geekie only dissenting.

And as this resolution is of so great importance, the following summary recapitulation of our reasons is submitted to our hon'ble masters for their judgment and satisfaction, that we are guided entirely in this determination by our duty and a regard to their interest, and the preservation of their estate entrusted to our care and management:—

1*st.*—However express the Hon'ble Company's repeated injunctions may be against burying their money in expensive works on any pretext whatever, when these orders are set against and compared with their repeated assurances of grudging no expense for the immediate defence and preservation of the island itself and consequently their estates upon it, our present situation is undeniably such as will warrant this only step we can think of for the attainment of any tolerable degree of security, as no sufficient dependence can be had on any promise, treaty, or assurance from or with the Maráthás; and in truth without this addition the town wall itself may be reckoned of no use or significance to its purpose of defence, and consequently a great loss to the Hon'ble Company: and for the truth of this we need only appeal to a survey of its present untenable condition, as more amply set forth in our consultation of the 16th May last.

2*nd.*—Our inhabitants are grown so apprehensive of the insecure posture of the place against the power of our encroaching neighbours, that it is highly necessary for the Government to procure and provide with all expedition for their security in case of an invasion, and which can be no wise so effectually done as by fortifying the town itself for the greater assurance and encouragement of the inhabitants in general, the trading part of which have voluntarily contributed the sum above declared, and no care shall be omitted to consider in future of all fitting ways and means to lighten the burthen to our hon'ble masters.

3*rd.*—As the calculate now furnished is as exactly taken as the nature of the subject would admit, the amount of the charge cannot but be esteemed by our hon'ble masters, on a consideration of circumstances, well applied towards securing so great a capital

and interest as they have in this place and dependencies upon it; nor do we see how we could justify the neglect of our duty in the maintenance of this great trust, or hazard the loss of the island for fear of incurring this additional expense, without which all the rest may be counted as thrown away, or in so dangerous a state as to deserve no reckoning on it as a property in stock, without the lying at the Maráthás' discretion can be esteemed any degree of security to be depended upon.

Agreed likewise that the most efficacious methods be pitched upon for completing this work in as easy a manner to the inhabitants and working people as can be thought of.

The President communicates to the Board translate of a letter received from the General of the North, Caetano d'Souza, entered hereafter, praying the forcible aid of this Government to oblige the Jesuits, who have taken refuge with their effects upon this island, to contribute the sum of forty thousand xeraphins towards the maintenance of the Portuguese troops and for other exigencies, upon a promise of such a sum made by them at Bassein, concerning which, the President acquaints the Board, that he had already used all methods of persuasion, though without effect, to induce the Jesuits to contribute the whole sum demanded of them, or at least a part on this occasion, and apprehends that the national protection given and claimed by these people, who are not our subjects, does not warrant the using of any violence or compulsion to them whilst under our protection. In which opinion the Board unanimously concurs with him, and the President will return an answer setting forth his inability to proceed in the manner required of him according to the constitution of this Government and the general law of nations.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Bombay Castle, 6th July 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble Stephen Law, Esq., President and Governor.

W. Charles Rigby.	John Geekie.
Thomas Stonestreet.	John Morley.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President then communicates to the Board his answer to Caetano d'Souza's letter of the 9th July, N. S., entered after last consultation, from whom he has since received a reply, which being translated is read and both ordered to follow this consultation.

Debating upon which the President remarks, that the substance thereof being to borrow money for the immediate subsistence of the Portuguese troops with a tender of the best security they had for the present to give, he had discoursed with the Agent for the King of Portugal about the sum that might be precisely necessary for this, and which upon the most near calculation cannot well be less than four thousand rupees per mensem for the support of from seven to eight hundred men, including likewise officers of distinction, and which cannot now be far longer than three or four months before an opportunity offers, and the season answers for the transport of these people to some place under the Portuguese jurisdiction. And as this Government could not have justified the refusal of a retreat to the subjects of an European prince in alliance with our sovereign, in such circumstances as they were, it cannot be matter of any dispute whether we

should supply them with the bare necessaries of life of which they are in want during their stay on the places, and therefore it is proposed that a sum not exceeding four thousand rupees be issued monthly out of the treasury to the order of the Portuguese Agent upon the security mentioned in the General's letter, which is unanimously agreed to.

Adjourned.

STEPHEN LAW.
W. CHARLES RIGBY.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Letter from the PORTUGUESE COMMANDANT *of the* NORTH *to the Honourable* STEPHEN LAW, *Esq., President and Governor.*

In my letters of the 22nd April and 6th of May, written at Bassein, I represented to your Excellency the great perplexity and straits I was involved in through the urgent necessity that place (being the principal one of this province) stood in want of money for the payment of the troops, which was the true justified motive that obliged me to request of your Excellency in the name of His Most Serene Portuguese Majesty to assist us with a loan from the Hon'ble Company of one hundred thousand rupees, being driven even to offer in pawn certain large brass cannon as having no other security to give for the said loan.

But this proposal of mine not taking effect for the reasons your Excellency was pleased to declare in your letter of the 28th April and others that occurred, I was obliged to fall upon extraordinary methods, and with the consent of an assembly of the Senate, prelates and nobility, gave order for a search into the convents, churches and private houses, and seizure of the gold, jewels and silver that might be found in them, which the King took by way of loan, certificates being given in order to re-payment whenever it was possible. The money this search produced has served hitherto to pay the troops and defray the other most necessary expenses for the King's service. But whereas there is now none remaining, and the Jesuits have failed of the promise they made of contributing forty thousand xeraphins, for the which amount they passed a note to be made good on this island out of the great capital there is upon it belonging to the said Jesuits, which proceeding of theirs is the more unjustifiable, or undutiful, as they have on this score received a letter of thanks from His Excellency the Count Viceroy in the name of His Majesty. Neither can I compel them to a contribution of the said sum, as they are now within the jurisdiction of the Government of your Excellency. This difficulty joined to the pressing necessity there is of money to pay the troops and the expense which will necessarily be requisite for the fitting and preparing vessels of war, oblige me to this recourse to your Excellency in this representation; that on my retreat from Bassein I could neither pass down to Goa through the lateness of the season, nor to any other place of this province for want of victuals in them and other necessaries for the support of the troops under my command, so that I sought shelter here, presuming, from many concurring reasons, to find on this island a favourable protection from your Excellency and the Hon'ble Company, and likewise expecting recovery of the above-mentioned loan as promised by the Jesuits (as your Excellency may be pleased to see by their own letter herewith enclosed), with the help of which our expenses might be defrayed for four months that remain, till some provision may be made

from Goa in this matter, in which, too, there will be no small difficulty, that Court being greatly straitened and exhausted by the late treaty of peace, which your Excellency is well acquainted with.

On these considerations I hope, from the good disposition of your Excellency, and weighing the justice of my reasons, you will please to apply proper measures for obliging the Jesuits to contribute, without delay, the loan which they promised of forty thousand xeraphins, since as vassals of the State they are in duty bound to concur with the rest in these urgent necessities. Seeing that if these troops were in any place of our jurisdiction I could obtain from the merchants of it a supply of all necessaries for their subsistence, till money could be raised to pay them, which in this island is in no sort practicable; and for this consideration your Excellency ought not to permit, that the said troops, being under the jurisdiction of your Government, for want of pay should be reduced to so miserable a state as not only to disband and seek other recourse, but put themselves on the terms of taking some desperate resolution, the consequences of which might be very prejudical to His Portuguese Majesty, whilst it would give me the deepest concern to see them suffer, with the vexation of having no means to assist them. for want of money and credit upon this island to supply their wants, my reputation and credit not being a little concerned in this important matter, being obliged to give an account of them to His Excellency the Count Viceroy.

I wait for your necessary determination in this affair, and wish for many occasions to serve and oblige your Excellency.

I am, &c.,
CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay, 9th July 1739, N. S.

Translation of the JESUITS' *Letter above referred to.*

To

THE COLONEL AND COMMISSIONER.

SIR,—Notwithstanding the little or no importance of our Society of Jesus in India, however, I, after deliberating maturely with the other Religious of this College, and with great attention to the present distress we are reduced to, and considering the great care you show in the defence of this place, the capital of all this province of the North, to avoid the great damage that threatens us, have resolved to make good in Bombay, as far as the sum of forty thousand xeraphins, for the bringing in the necessary articles with all possible despatch to this place as you shall please to order. But with all desire you will do me the honor to order, that the senate of this city passes me a certificate importing that my orders contributed the said loan when the place was reduced to the greatest straits, as likewise the Agent and Chief Alcalde or Lieutenant of the town to give me a bond in form for us to demand upon, in the time to come. I likewise desire that you will let us live in peace that we may pray to God to deliver us from our enemies, which is the part that belongs to us, and to you the care and vigilance for the defence of this place, since in your great zeal, experience and valour are centered all our hopes. I expect your answer that I may order the necessary, being,

Sir,
Your most obedient chaplain,
JOACHIM DIAS,
Superior of the College of Jesuits at Bassein.

Bassein, 6th May 1739, N.S.

The PRESIDENT's Reply to the Letter of CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA, Portuguese Commandant of the North.

SIR,—I received your favour of the 9th of July of the current year (New Series) and likewise the enclosed letter of the Jesuits directed to you which, according to your representation, is what you ground your dispute with them upon.

The whole matter has been deliberated upon in Council, with due attention, and to see if any expedient could be found to give you entire satisfaction, which my own inclination leads me to procure you in everything within my power.

However in this case I am obliged to reply to you that, according to the constitution of our laws and Government, which yourself must be acquainted with, no other ways can be used with these Jesuits who have taken refuge under the protection of our Crown but those of persuasion and advice, which failing, as in effect they have failed, the abovementioned considerations, together with the regard due to national protection, hinder me from the pursuance of this affair with the Jesuits by other means, and this I hope you will not take exception at, as you will do me the justice to believe that I shall be always desirous of serving yourself in particular, and favouring the interests of the Portuguese nation in every thing that depends upon my Government and is not out of my power as this is.

With this I return you enclosed the said letter of the Jesuits, and if they have failed in their promise or civil obligation as loyal subjects, I do not doubt but on their return under the jurisdiction of your nation, to whom only belongs to judge in this matter, justice will take its due course, as this Government has no authority to interfere in the same for the above-declared reasons.

I am, &c.,
STEPHEN LAW.

Bombay Castle, 30th June 1739, N. S.

Letter from CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA, Commandant of the North, to the PRESIDENT.

HON'BLE SIR,—I received your Excellency's most esteemed letter of the 11th instant in answer to mine of the 9th preceding, in which I observe what you are pleased to say with respect to the matters proposed in mine, upon which I am in the necessity of replying that the policy of a Government belonging to the Most Serene Crown of England (considering the friendship subsisting betwixt our two nations) as well as the respect owing to all national protections, is the most forcible reason why your Excellency and Council and the Hon'ble Company should in such extreme necessity, as the present one is, attend to the preservation and subsistence of the King's troops which are now on this island under the protection of your Excellency's Government, in want of all the means of sustenence, without the assistance of your Excellency and the Hon'ble Company, having already consumed in the payment of them the little gold and silver that remained in the churches, convents and private houses in Bassein: and the Agent of His Most Serene Majesty of Portugal not having any supply left wherewith to furnish the requisite charges, all the treasure being exhausted during the close siege that place sustained for more than two years, as is notorious to your Excellency and the world, besides the plain obstacle there is to our being supplied from the Court of Goa by reason of the season.

In the above declared circumstances I have again recourse to your Excellency, hoping that by all possible ways and means you will concur to the making a loan to the State of thirty thousand rupees to serve for the subsistence of the troops, fitting of vessels and other indispensable necessary expenses, and having no better security to give for the said loan, I convened the officers of my Council and agreed by act thereof to oblige the Factor and the Padre

Administrators of Bassein to remain on this island as pledges till full repayment be made by the Court of Goa of the whole sum; and as either of these persons are bound to give account of receipts and issues to a very considerable amount, I am persuaded that the loan will be made good without delay, that they may be forthcoming at the said Court of Goa. And seeing the generous disposition of your Excellency voluntarily and liberally contributed such copious sums on charity to the poor widows who took refuge on this island after the unfortunate retreat from the city of Bassein, besides assisting all those who are in distress and have recourse to your Excellency, it does not seem just that the troops of His Most Serene Majesty of Portugal should experience a less degree of patronage from your Excellency's bounty.

In case, however, that all these averred reasons are not of weight enough to gain a due effect of this recourse to your Excellency and Council and the Hon'ble Company, as I have no other for the preservation of the King's troops, I deliver them over to your Excellency and Council, as you shall be answerable to His Most Serene Majesty of Great Britain for the damage and prejudice that from the ruin of these troops may result to the State and service of my Sovereign; or your Excellency will give me leave to pass with them to the island of Karanja or Sálsette, seeing it will be better that I with the Portuguese officers and soldiers die in fight with the enemy of our faith and nation than expire under the terrible torment of hunger.

I am, &c.,

CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay, the 15th July 1739, N. S.

Bombay Castle, 7th August 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

W. CHARLES RIGBY | THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN GEEKIE. | JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Read and approved our last consultation.

Read the translate of a letter from Caetano d'Souza Pereira, Commandant in the North, to the President, and by him communicated to the Board. The substance of which is to request the advancing him at one payment the amount of the loan agreed to in consultation of the 6th July last for the three months of residence here, presumed to be for August, September and October, with a further sum for the repairs of the vessels belonging to them and necessary to carry him and troops of the shore to some place of retreat within the Portuguese jurisdiction, which he cannot otherwise effect; debating upon which it is observed that the permission and leave given the Portuguese to retreat hither, after the surrender at Bassein, was a step that could not be avoided without such a breach of all national regard as we are persuaded we could not have justified, and therefore it is to be hoped our hon'ble masters will not disapprove of it. And the admission of them proved to be attended with some ill consequences, both to the tranquillity of the place from their unruly mutineering soldiery, and by engaging us in loan of money for their immediate subsistence, for which we took however the best security their circumstances could afford, and yet we presume a reasonable one. But as their quick departure and thereby ridding the place of the load of their maintenance and other troubles depends on our advancing this sum now requested, Resolved,—that twelv [illegible] rupees be issued and advanced in full of the intended loan of four thousand rupees monthly for the three ensuing months, and that a sum not exceeding two thousand rupees be allowed

for the refittal of the vessels to carry them off, store and such supplies of stores as may just serve for the defence of them: provided that sufficient security is given previous to the payment aforesaid for their going off the place as speedily as possible, the discretional management of which is submitted to the President and the same security to remain as before accepted of for the whole.

Ordered likewise that translate of the said letter follow this consultation for the notice of our hon'ble masters.

Ordered that all books and papers to be transmitted to our hon'ble masters by this ship "Defence" be prepared with all expedition.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Letter from the COMMANDANT *of the* NORTH *to the* PRESIDENT.

Notwithstanding all possible care taken by me to prevent the disorders committed by the troops under my command, as I am desirous by all means to procure the quiet and tranquillity of the inhabitants under your jurisdiction, I am now determined, as soon as the season will allow of a transport of the said troops to some place in our province, to remove them thither. But as I cannot execute this without the assistance of your Excellency or of the Hon'ble Company for want of the means, I am obliged to have recourse to your Excellency, in the hope you will favour my request in the conjuncture in respect to the great utility which thence must result to the service of His Most Serene Portuguese Majesty, and the common interest of both nations.

On the representation I made to your Excellency of the want of money I lay under to pay the King's troops, your friendly disposition led you to agree in Council to advance monthly to the Agent of Bassein the loan of four thousand rupees towards this service until the necessary provision should be made from the Court of Goa for this important dependency, which loan in effect took place and was advanced the last month. And whereas there is in no place of our province any fund for the subsistence of these troops, my request is that your Excellency will order to be advanced me the whole loan for the months of August, September and October. I will, my Council agreeing, that the same security as before given shall be continued.

But whereas this alone will not suffice for the execution of my said resolution as the vessels brought from Bassein are in want of refittal, I must likewise depend on the Hon'ble Company to take in charge the expense necessary for the repairing and fitting of two grabs and some machvás or fishing boats that will be wanted both for the transport of these troops and succouring any part attacked by the enemy, being likewise in want of some ball and ammunition of war for arming the said vessels, for the entire payment of which I and my Council have agreed to the same terms of security as for the rest.

On the abovementioned consideration I hope your Excellency's friendly disposition weigh-[illegible] the great consequence that it may be of to the service of His Most Serene Portuguese Majesty, and to the preservation of the places belonging to that Crown that yet remain in

this province, as well as to the quiet of this island, you will be pleased to assist me so that I may prosecute my intention of departing from this place with all possible expedition and remove the obstacles that embarrass my said purpose.

CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay, 14th August 1739, N. S.

Bombay Castle, 31st August 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble Stephen Law, Esq., President and Governor.

W. Charles Rigby.	John Geekie.
Thomas Waters.	Thomas Stonestreet.

John Morley.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President communicates to the Board a letter from Caetano d'Souza Pereira, dated the 8th September, N. S., directed to him, translate whereof is read and is ordered to follow this consultation. And debating on the answer that is fitting to give it is remarked how unreasonable and growing the Portuguese are in their demands and expectation from us beyond what our situation or circumstances can afford or the ability of this Government extends to; agreed therefore that the President do in answer thereto only confirm the assurances of complying with our engagements in Council of the 7th instant, and to the rest of his demands give a general reply that as far as is reasonable, and the state of our affairs will permit us, we are ready to succour and promote their interest to the utmost. The following letter may have one good effect, as it is a producible testimony in favour of our past conduct towards them, of which this appears to be the first material acknowledgment extorted from them after such a course of benefits and assistance as they have received from this Government. In owning of which they have been reserved to such a degree as if they designedly evaded a confession thereof to answer the end of further misrepresentation.

STEPHEN LAW.
THOMAS WATERS.
JOHN GEEKIE.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Letter from Caetano d'Souza Pereira, Commandant of the North, to the President.

Having written a letter to your Excellency concerning the repairs wanting to the vessels of war I brought from Bassein, your Excellency was pleased to give me a verbal answer in this matter to the said letter, declaring that the Hon'ble Company took charge of the repairs and refittal of two grabs and the machvás of war, and assuring me that this expense should be supplied with all possible conveniency; and in effect the said vessels are already docked for that purpose; but as I am on the point of despatching to Daman one of these grabs with the

utmost expedition, I request that your Excellency will be pleasad to order one to be got in readiness without delay, furnishing me likewise another vessel to go under convoy of said grab, that may hold a company of seventy soldiers with their effects designed for succours to that place.

The instant I shall have effected their despatch I determine to transport myself to Chaul with the remainder of the troops, and as these vessels of war may take up more time in their repairs than I can afford to delay my departure for, I must depend on your Excellency for enabling me to go off, and that your Excellency will furnish me with sufficient vessels for the transport of four hundred men, some families, and a quantity of batty in coming from Daman, being a reserve of the King's stores, the whole of which may go in shibars[1], [and for their security I must depend on your Excellency ordering convoy to be given them as far as that place by your vessels of war. And it is likewise of necessity that your Excellency should order the money remaining of the assignment for the pay of our troops till October to be advanced me directly. It being instantly wanted to distribute amongst the Captains of Mare, Guerra, and of the Infantry that they may make a timely provision of the necessary victualling for their embarkations, and to carry with them to the places they are designed to succour, and which are in want of provisions through the enemy's blockade.

I likewise hope to obtain of your Excellency the favour of your giving order that the said grabs and ammunitions of war that are now preparing repairing be finished with all possible despatch, and the instant they are ready your Excellency will please to advise me that I may order their proceeding to Chaul, where I much want them for several expeditions of importance to His Most Serene Portuguese Majesty, which I cannot carry into execution without the aid of the said vessels, in which matter I rest confident your Excellency will favour them with all the expedition that can be used, agreeably to the natural inclination and favourable disposition with which you have in every thing protected the interest of our State.

By letters which I have received from Chaul, Daman and Diu the Commandants of those places request of me succours of munitions of war and victuals and cannon, and as I have none of these articles wherewithal to assist them, I find myself obliged to request of your Excellency all these supplies, of which you will be so good to furnish what you think proper. But with respect to provisions, it will suffice that you grant a license to the merchants that shall ask it, to export the needful to such places without restraint. And as to what regards Chaul, there are some wants which require an immediate remedy, and as one thousand rupees will suffice for the purchase of those neccessaries, I request of your Excellency as well the supply of this sum, as the amount of the munitions of war which your Excellency may supply the other places with, and the vessels of war that I am to carry from hence, for the payment of which my Council shall give security in the same form and manner as the rest of the money taken up of the Hon'ble Company.

Your Excellency has manifested yourself of so magnanimous and generous a spirit in all that regarded the maintenance and subsistence of the King's troops that all my acknowlegments must fall short of such great and important services. But that your Excellency may receive such, and with expressions that you fully deserve, I have at large informed His Excellency the Count Viceroy how much the State is indebted to your Excellency. And I am well assured that the Viceroy will not only acknowledge to your Excellency his satisfaction, but represent to His Most Serene Portuguese Majesty your Excellency's merit and the virtues that shine in your person, being fully manifested not only in the concern of our State, but likewise in the most copious charitable contributions with which your Excellency's liberality has relieved

[1] A shibar (from Maráthi shibád) is a very large pattemár.

and continues to relieve the vassals of our State, who have recourse to the generous disposition and protection of your Excellency, for whose service I offer myself with the most cordial affection and sincere inclination.

I am, &c.,
CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay, the 28th September 1739, N. S.

Bombay Castle, 28th September 1739.

At a Consultation, present.

The Hon'ble Stephen Law, Esq., President and Governor.

W. Charles Rigby. | Thomas Stonestreet.
John Geekie. | John Morley.

Read and approved our last consultation :

The President then lays before the Board a letter from the Portuguese Commandant of the North, Caetano d'Souza Pereira, dated the 3rd October, N. S., praying a further loan of at least seven thousand rupees, without which he represents it as absolutely impracticable to carry his troops off shore who were actually mutinying for want of their pay, while there was no money left of our former loans to satisfy them in. Debating upon which, the President observes the unreasonable and growing demands of these people, who were not ashamed of applying for yet a further supply although they themselves had limited their last request, as may be seen in our consultation of the 7th August last, to fourteen thousand, and had been by him assured of the hazard we ran of incurring our hon'ble masters' displeasure by these unauthorized loans, and had even already exceeded in our compliance by advancing them since the first term of payment the sum of fourteen thousand rupees, exclusive of the repairs and refittal of their vessels which were meant to be included in that amount. Notwithstanding all which, and his last urgent expostulation on this method of proceeding with the General himself and the King's Agent, he found it impossible to procure the retreat of the Portuguese troops, without either proceeding to violent measures, or at once cutting off all pretences for their longer stay by a compliance in part with this unreasonable request; that being very unwilling to embroil matters for a small sum he had at last prevailed on the General to make the best shift he could to satisfy his men with about three thousand rupees, for less than which it appeared impracticable to get rid of them by fair means, and therefore proposed it to the Board for their consent to this last trial, the necessity of which seemed evident. And the same is unanimously agreed to, and ordered that translate of his letter follow this consultation.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Letter from CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA *to the* PRESIDENT.

It being time to embark the Portuguese troops that are on this island, and accordingly on my ordering last Thursday a company designed for garrison to go on board a grab that lay ready, they made great objections on account of their not being paid their arrears for one-quarter or three months, and to oblige them to embark in effect I was forced to interpose my authority, and go myself on board with them. And as those that remain behind make the same clamour, and with more reason those soldiers that are married and have nothing whatever besides to depend upon for the sustenance of their family, I convened my Council, and on enquiry of the Factor it appeared to me that there was no money left of the loan he had received of the Hon'ble Company, having disbursed it entirely in the ordinary payment of the troops; and having regard to the importance of the matter, I with my said Council waited upon your Excellency to request the loan of ten thousand rupees to supply the aforesaid demand, and provide some necessaries to go from this place to the assistance of some soldiers that are sick. But, as on the part of your Excellency certain circumstances were represented to me in opposal to the grant of the sum requested, I assembled the officers, and ordering them to lay before the soldiery the state of our affairs, and thereby reduced them to such terms that for the present they will be satisfied with the payment of a half quarteridge, for which and other necessaries the sum of seven thousand rupees is indispensably wanted, which I desire your Excellency will please to lend, considering the condition the soldiers must otherwise go in without pay to enter upon any action, and the prejudicial consequences that may from thence arise to the King's service, if they are not paid before they embark at least one-half of their quarteridge; and besides obliging my Council to the payment of the said sum, I promise your Excellency that out of the first money that comes from Goa the whole amount of what has been lent by the Hon'ble Company shall be paid, or I will give your Excellency a pledge equal to the said loan, in consideration of which I offer to your Excellency's deep comprehension the importance of this matter, hoping that you will decide it with all the despatch the time requires to tranquilize the soldiery, and that I may proceed on my voyage in order to succour the other places of this province, and carry clear off shore the troops now on this island, for the reasons your Excellency must well conceive.

I am, &c.,

CAETANO D'SOUZA PEREIRA.

Bombay, October 3rd, 1739, N.S.

Bombay Castle, 9th October 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

W. CHARLES RIGBY.	THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN GEEKIE.	JOHN MORLEY.

The President then communicates to the Board the substance of two letters from the Viceroy of Goa, dated the 13th September and 5th October of the current year, N. S., containing chiefly an acknowledgment of the civilities shown and assistance afforded to those of his nation after their unfortunate retreat from Bassein. And a request of the continuance of our supplies to the other places remaining in the North with a promise of punctually paying the amount of our loans as assistance by the return of the frigate or frigates which he is shortly to despatch up to the North. He waiting with impatience the arrival of their expected ships for

certain information of the measures taken by the King his master, in concert with His Britannic Majesty, for the restoring the common interest of both nations in these parts.

Also a letter from the Commandant in the North, Caetano d'Souza Pereira, dated Chaul, the 18th October 1739, N. S., advising his safe arrival at that place and amply acknowledging the favour and protection shown to the troops and subjects of His Portuguese Majesty. That he had on his arrival in Chaul made dispositions to attack Mánáji A'ngria who besieged it, and had thought proper to offer him terms of peace, which the situation of affairs and a desire of obeying His Excellency's orders for repairing to Goa with the troops under his command had obliged him to condescend to. He requests that conveyances be sent him from hence to Chaul, with convoy for the transport of some men designed for reinforcing Daman.

Debating on this last request the Board is of opinion that our giving such a convoy as is desired, up to Daman, would alarm the jealousy of our new neighbours, and afford them matter of complaint, which ought by all means, if possible, to be avoided. Agreed therefore that a civil answer be returned expressing that the occasions of this Presidency for its vessels are such as that they cannot be spared on their service; but that on the first expedition of a convoy to our trade up to Surat they may embrace the benefit of it for the safe transport of their intended succours to Daman.

Read a letter to the President and Council from Francisco Xavier, the King's Agent or Feitore, which is entered after the consultation, he being one of the securities offered and accepted for the loans advanced the Commandant of the North, as noted in consultation of the 6th of July last, wherein he acquaints us of his being recalled by his superiors at Goa, which he intimates he cannot comply with unless he has our license.

On consideration of which it is the sense of the Board that since the Viceroy has taken on himself by promise and assurance to pay the said debt, it will not only be disrespectful mark of distrust of it to stop this public officer who owes an account of his administration at Goa, but in reality answer no security so well as the Viceroy's promise, since they might not be sorry to throw the consequences of delay in payment on these securities, who seem neither of them to be uneased at their residence here. Agreed, therefore, that the Secretary (by our order) signify to him our consent to his departure, and a full confidence that the loans (he has personal security for) will be duly discharged as they were advanced purely for the King's service in the greatest exigency.

Adjourned.

STEPHEN LAW.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Letter from FRANCISCO XAVIER, *Agent or Feitore for the King at Bassein, to the Hon'ble the* PRESIDENT *and* COUNCIL.

I am obliged to represent to your Honor and Council that I have received an order from the Council of Finances at the Court of Goa to repair thither forthwith, and as according to agreement on our borrowing money for the payment of the King my master's troops we obliged ourselves to remain here at your order until payment thereof, I therefore make this application to know if with your good pleasure I may repair to the said Court, being otherwise bound to the contrary as aforesaid.

I am, &c.,
FRANCISCO XAVIER.

Bombay, the 20th October 1739, N. S.

Bombay Castle, 29th November 1739.

At a Consultation, Present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

THOMAS WATERS.	THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN GEEKIE.	JOHN MORLEY.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President acquaints the Board that this meeting is summoned expressly to lay before them the sum of his advices concerning the Maráthás, as likewise certain letters and proposals from the Viceroy of Goa which he has this instant received.

And the informations relating to the Maráthás being of the most immediate consequence, the President proceeds in acquainting the Board that he has repeated intelligence and from different quarters, yet all agreeing in the main, that there is a body of about eight thousand men assembled at Marol, (a place on the continent opposite to the back of the island of Sálsette, and a few hours' march from Thána,) and numbers repairing thither to complete an army which is to be under the directions of Kondáji Mánkar (the same officer who commanded in their successful expedition against Sálsette). And it is confidently assured that their designs are against Bombay, towards which, he is likewise informed, that at the island of Versova there are a number of vessels got together, as also at Thána. That Mánáji Ángria, who is in a state of hostility with us, and his past conduct appears to be wholly subservient to the Maráthás and in their obedience, has two grabs and twenty gallivats in readiness, which he at first apprehended were designed for his usual business of cruising, but he has now good reasons to suspect their intention is to join and act in concert with the Maráthás. That all these preparations were so well known to our inhabitants and given so warm an alarm that some of them had begun to remove the most valuable effects. That he is by these and many concurrent informations advised that these Maráthás have certainly formed a project to invade this island, and will without respect of tide attempt the landing such numbers of men as shall answer their purpose, upon which, after mature deliberation with officers and procuring a state of the military and marine troops, he now offers to the consideration of the Board the best and safest expedient that occurs to him, which is to recall the bomb ketch and the Sloop "Trial" with the gallivats that proceeded but yesterday to the northward in convoy to the small trade, which will strengthen the defence of our rivers, now very slenderly provided for against such a force as the Maráthás may bring against us, and desires the gentlemen seriously to weigh the danger of our present situation, and give their advice in the critical conjuncture.

The matter then being debated, it is observed, that the scope of the President's representation is to remedy our present situation, which is not sufficiently guarded, in case of such an invasion as we are threatened with, by applying of suitable force or such as can be procured to guard in the offing as well as our rivers and bays where the situation may favour a descent, and the Board being unanimous in their opinion, that the Governor may judge and order entirely in the disposition of the forces. And Messrs. Waters, Geekie and Stonestreet proceeding to give their opinion as being desired, think that the recalling the convoy will be of the utmost ill consequence to the trade and welfare of the island, as it will either give up near a hundred vessels to these cruisers everywhere round us that are ready to intercept them, or on their being recalled in company prove such a disappointment to the parties concerned as will strike a general damp and discouragement into the inhabitants. They are moved chiefly to be against this measure for the following reasons, besides the above mentioned consequences: That we have had frequent alarms of this sort without much truth or foundation for them; that every spring there are reports forged and propagated in town of the Maráthás' designs and

preparations, which it is not fair to attend to, as on every such report to put a stop to the main springs and business of our island by stopping or calling off the vessels employed in the protection of our trade the ruin of the place is inevitable. But that, admitting these reports to be well founded, there still remain means and expedients to supply the place of the vessels proposed to be recalled in an equal degree or near it as follows :—

> The "Carolina" and the Galley "Prince of Wales" may guard the extent from Bassein to the mouth of our harbour inclusive. The "Neptune's Prize" to be called in to strengthen the defence in the rivers. And as the Sloop "Emilia" designed for Ajento must of consequence be detained for want of convoy, she may serve for the like use. Mr. Waters offers the Grab "Adventure", a vessel of some countenance, to be stationed where necessary, and the Galley "Robert", likewise detained for want of convoy to the southward, may occasionally be employed, till some certainty is obtained concerning the Maráthás' notions and designs. And as detachments will be wanted to man these vessels, a hundred men may be drawn off the passes at Sion and put on board them, as they can be easily recalled upon any emergency, on the force of the enemy being directed against the passes. And all persons not unemployed in service may be ordered on board to do duty on this emergency; all which may be esteemed a provision (supposing the worst) sufficient to prevent any attempts by sea or in the rivers, without having recourse to the recall of our northern convoy; besides which, as the "Prince William" and three of our best gallivats are daily expected from Goa, which they left for this place the nineteenth instant, there is still less reason for taking a step of such evident disadvantage to the place in general.

This being the opinion of Messrs Waters, Geekie and Stonestreet, the President desires it may be taken notice of and observed for his future justification in a matter of this moment and importance, that as he does not warrant the truth and certainty of the reports now communicated, though there is a great probability of them from their being concurrent and uniform from different hands, so it would be highly imprudent and unjustifiable (after the example of our unfortunate neighbours, who had been often in the same manner deceived by false reports, which at length rendered them insensible of a true one), to omit any means of security or safe guard in our power, when we have no less in trust and charge than the preservation of the place itself, our hon'ble masters' estate upon it, and the general concerns and fortunes of the inhabitants, all which ought not to be lightly hazarded or endangered by the disbelief of a report of this nature, although preceded by many false alarms to which our present situation naturally subjects us. That our forces are so drained by the southern fleet, and lastly by this northern convoy, that we have neither men nor vessels in proportion to our need in case of such an invasion as we have reason to apprehend (as may appear from abstracts now laid before the Board). That therefore although it is his opinion that so great a dependency as the safety of the island is not to be put in competition with the benefit on occasions for the northern convoy, and that the same ought to be recalled in company with the trading vessels with all expedition, to strengthen our defence by waters, yet he is equally sensible with the above gentlemen, of the objections to this step as set forth by them, but that in a dilemma where those inconveniences they mention were of one side and the safety of the island on the other, being more immediately his charge and care, he should prefer the latter as the most momentous in all consideration. That nevertheless in the present uncertainty he should give way to their opinion, and order the best disposition to be made which our present condition would afford without reckoning in the arrival of the "Prince William" with the gallivats which was much an uncertainty to trust to. In which declaration of opinion Mr. Morley also concurs.

The President then communicates to the Board two letters received from the Viceroy of Goa, translate whereof follow this consultation, and the substance of them being deliberated upon, it appears to this Board that the proposal therein made of the capitulations for the surrender of Chaul being left to our discretion and management, and the brass artillery to be appropriate to the payment of the Portuguese debt to our hon'ble masters might have produced a very good effect, besides ensuring so large a sum in the best manner now attainable, had the Viceroy left it in our choice to treat with Bájiráv upon the cession of this important place, which we know he long has had an eye upon, and must sooner or later fall into his hands, since it is evident the Portuguese are now thoroughly disabused of the hopes of any timely succours this year from Portugal. Whereas by the construction of his letter on this subject he distinguished in such a manner betwixt the Sháhu Rája and Bájiráv as might, on our undertaking to treat with the latter, give him a pretext hereafter to disavow our measures and procedure therein. We are sensible that treating with the Sháhu Rája directly, as matters are circumstanced, would be to no purpose, as Bajiráv's power is so firmly established, and such a step would give him a jealousy, that we were aiming at subverting his interest in these parts, which it is at present but prudent and politic to avoid as much as possible; and as the tender of a place of such strength and importance to be delivered to him will be the strongest proof of the reality of our assurances, that we have no ambition of extending our possession, or getting garrisons in his country, since we have now undeniably so fair an opportunity, we hope this measure may produce a further confidence and good disposition in the Maráthás towards us, or at least leave them not the least pretence for mistrust or complaint. And although the annexing a strong place by the Maráthás will greatly increase their power, it is better they should have the obligation of it to us (since it must ultimately and soon come into their hands), than letting Mánáji A'ngria get possession of it, with whom no measures can be taken, or letting the Siddi do get possession of it, who we know is not in a condition to defend it. Agreed therefore that an express boat be instantly despatched to the Viceroy with letter from the President setting forth the necessity of treating with Bájiráv or Chimnáji for the surrender of the fortress of Chaul to them preferable to any other power, and requesting an immediate reply, as no time is now to be lost. And in the meantime the secret required in this affair will be duly kept.

STEPHEN LAW.
THOMAS WATERS.
JOHN GEEKIE.
JOHN MORLEY.

Letter from the Viceroy *of* Goa *to the* President.

I received the favour of your letter of the 23rd October, to which I have not before answered for want of an opportunity, which I now gladly embrace in that of one of your ships bound for your island.

I repeat to your Honor my due acknowledgment for the repeated favour and good service for which my nation is indebted to your Honor.

I have been greatly concerned that the Padre Rectore Joachim Dias has not, as he ought, punctually paid down the sum I charged him with—forty thousand xeraphins only of what

the royal treasury of this State is indebted to your Honor, and this disappointment, being what I could not expect, has greatly displeased me. I am likewise very sorry that I cannot, with the expedition I could wish, comply with my engagement in this point, concerning which further I refer myself to another letter which I write your Honor herewith, and in whioh I have proposed the readiest means I have for effectuating your payment.

My officers, who retired from Bassein to your island, have behaved so in matter of their accounts, that I yet am unacquainted with the just amount of the sum your Honor is creditor of, as well as with the items and articles of which it composed; and being desirous of getting knowledge thereof, I desire your Honor will please to send me a copy of my office obligations, or an account of parcels furnished by your Honor.

I return your Honor thanks for your readiness to forward the transport of the troops designed to reinforce the garrison of Daman, and have always some motive or other that calls for my thanks.

This place is so straitened for provision, and the price is risen so high, that the merchants of your island cannot fail making a good market here of their grain, in point of which I have granted them an exemption of all duties on the import, and I beg your Honor will contribute your encouragement for their applying themselves to this commerce.

I was in hopes that the gallivats which served at Bassein for the guard of the rivers would have come down to this city in company with the troops, but I am told my officers have sold a great many upon the island which I have not yet had time to examine into, and require an account from them of this and many other of their proceedings which I doubt they can ill quit themselves of. And as I am in great want of such vessels for the defence of the rivers round these islands, I request of your Honor that if the expedient proposed in the accompanying letter for raising money for the State be sufficient to produce something more than barely paying our debt to your Honor, please to favour me with ordering six or eight gallivats to be bought with the surplus, and sent down on the same occasion as is mentioned in the letter above referred to, wherein are set down what other matters I hope from your Honor.

I am, &c.,
THE COUNT OF SANDOMIL.

Goa, 29th November 1739, N. S.

The VICEROY's Letter referred to in the preceding one.

Goa, 29th November 1739.

After having answered by this ship your Honor's letter of the 23rd October I came now to communicate to your Honor business of so great importance as your Honor will observe on my explanation of it.

The many misfortunes which this State has been subjected to, have reduced it to such extremities as your Honor cannot be unacquainted with, and by repeated strokes it is now brought to the lowest pitch, and lately by an additional unhappy accident in the island of Bárdez, owing to great mismanagement and negligence, our condition is yet rendered worse.

That island has been in the possession of the Bhonslas (Khem Sávant's people) from the month of March last to the great prejudice and incommodiousness to this island of Goa: and waiting till the arrival of the succours from Portugal and the soldiery that had vacated Bassein in order to recover the country, I with ease retook it. For as soon as my troops marched towards the walls that defend that country the enemies quitted them without making any opposition, and having rebuilt them and repaired the ruin they had made in them, I held

that post secure, when through the great negligence of the General posted there, in not placing guards on the borders of the rivers that divide the territories of Bicholy and Alomah, the enemy's profiting by this inexcusable neglect got together a bridge of boats and rafts in the narrowest part of the river, not only without encountering any opposition, but even without the General having had notice of this movement. They immediately passed a body of three thousand men and one hundred and fifty horse, and encamped on Bardez. And the General being that night without any care of the matter, he of a sudden took a rash resolution, and ordered the enemies to be attacked by four companies of the best soldiers that came from Bassein, but so thinned of their complementary that they consisted only of one hundred and forty men, and, notwithstanding the inequality of their number to that of their enemy's, they attacked them with a valour that reached to temerity and made a great slaughter, but could not escape from so unequal a combat. A few soldiers only got off with great difficulty and much wounded. And the General, on the news of this defeat, quitted the walls immediately with the remainder of his people, leaving the country once more in the possession of the enemy, who, though victorious, were disheartened with the great loss of people they sustained in the battle.

This unforeseen misfortune happened at the same time that one sail ship of this monsoon arrived at the bar of the Aguada, having left Lisbon the 27th April last, after seven months' voyage, the 25th instant, in which they suffered a great mortality amongst her crew, and the remaining people being almost all down with severe distempers. Her arrival curing me of all hopes of increasing my small forces with the succours of this monsoon.

The reason given me from Lisbon for despatching only this single ship (besides the news of the two having lost their passage that came out in October, and staid at Rau Janos not having reached Portugal) was that those ships were expected to have arrived in time, and likewise because the last news sent from India in several letters from Bassein were full of the good successes obtained by our arms in Dongrim, Máhím, Shirgaon and Asheri, and gave to understand that the enemy would soon be out of heart for pursuing their conquest. This great prejudice resulted from the good news the authors of these letters were pleased to write. That at the court of Portugal it was supposed these small succours would be sufficient to restore the State from its past losses.

From all which your Honor will infer the great necessity I am in of people for the defence of these islands and the recovery of Bárdez, as well as for the procuring the import and convoy for provisions of which there is the greatest scarcity, and will require the manning of vessels, besides which the want of money is not the least considerable point, owing to the extinction of the King's revenues, and the great increase of the excessive expenses of this war. And I having deliberated with my Council on the means of gaining some assistance in this great distress, that the ill may not grow too fast for a remedy, we are come to a resolution of withdrawing our garrisons from the forts of Chaul and Marol, which by my last advices consist of more than eight hundred men : yet this measure, which is likewise most necessary for want of a fund to maintain those places, will have so many difficulties in the execution, that did I not repose the greatest confidence in your favour and the great benevolence I have experienced in your Honor I should have little hopes of drawing from this remedy the advantage proposed, since I am actually without people to man and equip the vessels that will be wanted to transport such a number, which is of the greatest importance.

Neither is it less material to be considered with the utmost attention that I may not part with two forts of so great a consequence without setting on foot some negotiation for their value to obtain terms that may be useful to the revenues of the State, but I am reduced to such

straits, that I presume we cannot bear such a delay as would inevitably attend any treaty whatever about them, as the hopes I entertained of receiving succours from Portugal were the principal cause that I have not made any advances in this matter.

The negotiation, which I in my present circumstances would esteem the most convenient, would be to yield the said forts to the Sháhu Rája, on the condition of striking up a peace with him, which I do not doubt would be agreeable to him, because if my intelligence is true that he has conceived some displeasure at Bájiráv for not putting Bassein into his hands; and for these reasons the accession of such a seaport formed and defended by these two forts cannot but be esteemed very valuable by him, and I do not doubt on those terms he would restore me the territory of Daman, but the delay that would attend this proposal does not allow us in our present circumstances to enter into treaty about it. I am actually at present through the mediation of Narro Ram, first Councillor to Sháhu's son, treating open agreement for peace, in which I have only hitherto proposed to him a perpetual cessation of the place of Bassein and all its dependencies, on their granting me Daman with its district, from the revenue of which I have likewise offered him a considerable annual share, on his obliging himself to defend the country from any invasion whatever. But this treaty proceeds very slowly, and my hopes of its coming to any thing are yet but slenderly grounded, though I am persuaded that if I at the same time have offered him the said places of Chaul and Marol, the hopes of treaty would have been much more forwarded, and I communicated to your Honor these particulars, as I am in the hopes of great assistance through your favour in this important business to enable me to part with these forts with some utility, and desire to conform myself entirely to your opinion in the execution of the design.

If your nation had any convenience in taking possession of these forts, I would yield them up to none with greater pleasure than to your Honor, but as I understand they can be of no service to you, I am persuaded that it would be superfluous to make you the offer of them; however it is my desire that the resolution of giving them up to any other power or to abandon them should be as much as possible in your Honor's good liking.

The resulting advantages that I ought to prefer to all others in regard to our present circumstances are the immediate resort of our garrisons and munitions to these islands (of Goa), and using the produce of the fine artillery there is in those forts for the remedy in part of the great want of money this state labours under, and that I may be able to satisfy your Honor the amount it is indebted to you in. I consider, too, that our garrisons will be hardly withdrawn, and although the forts may be dismantled in a great measure by mines properly disposed, yet not enough, but that Mánáji A'ngria will instantly make a lodgment which will not be only prejudicial to me, but to your Honor, and therefore I should be very glad to provide another possessor. The Siddi came into my head, who would doubtless be sorry that Mánáji A'ngria should become a nearer neighbour, but I doubt his having forces or abilities to maintain himself in the possession of those forts.

Under the perplexity of these considerations I am resolved to put this business entirely into your Honor's hands, desiring you to accept of the delegation of my powers and those of this state, or to be my procurator for disposing of these forts in the manner that shall appear best to you; taking care in the first place with all possible expedition to hold every thing in readiness to withdraw from the said forts and bring to Bombay the brass ordnance that is in them which I hope your Honor will please to receive by way of sale or pledge for the money I owe your Honor, and for what more I have occasion for, to the value of the ordnance, requesting with all, that your Honor will assist me by advancing the freights of the vessels that are to transport these people and munitions, in company with a frigate that will be ready to sail from hence in eight

or ten days, and will go directly to receive your orders, and I beg your Honor may have the whole in readiness to go with her to Chaul, and in the same frigate I shall send directions to the Commandant and officers of those forts to deliver them up to your Honor's orders and according to your directions.

Your Honor will see by the enclosed list what ordnance there is, both brass and iron, in those forts, besides what was taken from Ángria in his attacks on the Fort of Marol. I have already proposed to your Honor my expectations with regard to the brass cannon that your Honor will take them by way of sale or pledge. However I desire that the smaller sized, as far as six-pounders, may be sent down to this city, where they are wanted. As for the iron guns, if it is your Honor's choice that those forts should be abandoned to the first occupant, it would be requisite that they should be all brought away in the said frigate, and in such vessels as your Honor may furnish towards the transport, and on your pleasing to receive any in sale I should be glad the produce may likewise be applied to the payment of the frigate for those vessels. But if this does not stand with your convenience, and the vessels designed for Goa are not able to bring them down hither, they should still be transported to Bombay along with the brass ordnance.

But in case your Honor does not approve of abandoning entirely these forts, and would reserve the delivery of them to some other power, for which it may be necessary to keep the iron guns in them, your Honor may please to dispose of them on such conditions as shall appear to you the most conducive to the advantage of this State.

If it were possible that after withdrawing the brass ordnance and the greatest part of the principal garrison of those forts they could, under your Honor's protection, and if necessary under your flag (as you are at peace with Mánáji and Bájiráv), be maintained, as I suppose they might be strong enough, until by your Honor's mediation it could be brought about for the Sháhu Rája to accept of those forts, on setting a firm peace with this State, upon the above declared conditions, of a perpetual cession to be made to him of all that belongs to Bassein, he engaging to leave us Daman and its district free, receiving yearly a considerable annual acknowledgment. This would be the most advantageous negotiation for us in our present condition of the terms of cession of these forts, and if your Honor thinks it can be brought about, I earnestly request it as the great favour, that you will immediately enter upon this treaty, which being effectuated, your Honor will engage the eternal acknowledgment of our nation, for the great benefits the State will owe to you, at which I shall represent to the King my master with such efficiency as they are entitled to from me.

The number of the garrisons now actually in those places is complete eight hundred men with their officers, including one hundred and seven sepoys, and on draughting off five hundred of the best, the remainder might stay, to which the peasants and Bandáris (toddy-drawers) bearing arms might be added, which are more than two hundred men. These five hundred or more might maintain the place until this negotiation was concluded. The expense requisite to subsist them appears the greatest difficulty to get over, but the dependency on this negotiation is of so great importance that I would contribute my utmost efforts towards supporting it, and in the meantime I hope from your Honor all the necessary assistance to this end. And as in the course of this negotiation your Honor cannot avoid being at some expense on the people you will send to make the proposal and treat about it, I oblige myself and this State for the entire satisfaction and payment thereof, in the manner and on the conditions your Honor may choose.

Finally I invest your Honor as my procurator in this business with all the authority I myself am possest of, in the great confidence that I have in your discretion, honor and good

will, and once more assure and repeat to your Honor that I will hold for good all that your Honor shall esteem most convenient and advantageous to the State, and beg of you that without waiting for any further commission your Honor will enter on the execution of that measure you shall choose as most conducive to the above purposes, not forgetting that the last mentioned expedient appears the most eligible, with a salvo always to withdrawing the brass ordnance to Bombay and five hundred of the best men of the garrison, which can on no account be dispensed with.

I do not write on this occasion to John de Souza Ferras, nor do I choose to communicate this business to him, because I solely confide in your Honor, your Council or such persons with whom your Honor may please to confer with on this occasion, as it seems to be of great importance that the secret should be preserved till its final execution.

As my neighbours the Bhonslás are much elated with the prosperous successes they have had at times, and are not only in good harmony with your Honor, but I am told will pay a great regard to your remonstrance, I request that your Honor will without delay give them to understand that you take part in the interests of our State, and that if they continue the war, your Honor cannot help declaring against them in our favour, considering the alliance that subsists between us. Much have I requested and much do I hope from your Honor's favour, less constrained by my present distress, than persuaded of the goodwill I am indebted to your Honor for, and for which my nation is so much obliged to you. And I should be extremely glad to have occasion of manifesting my grateful sense of your goodness.

I am, &c.,
THE COUNT OF SANDOMIL.

Bombay Castle, 1st December 1739.

The President despatched the following letter to the Viceroy of Goa by express boat agreeable to the Resolution in Council of yesterday :—

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I received your Excellency's two letters of the same date of the 29th November 1739, N. S., and was extremely concerned at the disagreeable news they contained, both in respect to your most unfortunate disappointment of succours expected from Portugal and the loss such a number of your men overpowered by the enemy in their desperate attack at Bárdez as your Excellency advises.

It is not now a time to enter upon compliments or expressions of sentiments, or I should not omit acknowledging at large your Excellency's goodness which leads you to exaggerate my little merit to your nation.

On full consideration of the importance of your proposals of delegating your Excellency's powers in the disposal of the fortresses of Chaul and Marol, I have laid them before my Council, with injunction of the secrecy required, and I have now the honor to communicate to your Excellency the result of our deliberation.

First it was observed with a general concern how great and imminent your straits must be, that oblige your Excellency to part with two forts of so great importance, and we acknowledge with a due sense the confidence your Excellency reposes in us, and your regard shown for the interest of our nation in the offer your Excellency makes us of committing them to our hands for our greater convenience, and leaving to our election the form and advantages of disposing of them at our discretion.

Our good inclination to assist and advance the interests of your nation in all that depends on us, would of itself be a sufficient motive for us to act in this conjuncture to the utmost of our power to answer your Excellency's expectations, and agreeably to this disposition we should have come into your Excellency's project, and employed ourselves with all diligence to further the execution of it in the best manner, for promoting your gaining the helps expected from it and so necessary in your present emergency.

We should form no objection to the choice of that proposal of your Excellency for us to begin a negotiation with the Sháhu Rájá for the delivery of those two forts to him, and in the meantime to keep possession of them, until some treaty should be concluded upon by us, as mediators for the peace and preservation of the remains of your territories, on the conditions prescribed by your Excellency, or better if procurable. But our situation is now so dangerous as lays us under a necessity to keep measures with these our new neighbours, who would immediately be alarmed with jealousies (as we before experienced on another occasion) on our application to the Sháhu Rájá's Court, besides which we have another reason to presume that no negotiation would come to any satisfactory conclusion that any ways traversed Bájiráv's interest, who though being out of the Sháhu Rája's favour has still a very prevalent faction in that Court, so that such a separate proposal would encounter invincible difficulties and delays.

Your Excellency has no doubt determined prudently that the suffering two forts so important and strong by their situation to fall into Mánáji's hands would only increase the force of that treacherous pickaroon; and the Siddi is brought too low to be able to undertake the defence of them. So that there remains no choice but the Maráthás, whose effects are already so powerful, that the reduction of the whole coast to their obedience seems infallible, and sooner or later (if your dominions are not reconquered) they cannot fail getting possession of these forts. So that, if your Excellency is of opinion that the least disadvantageous composition may be made with this enemy, I will readily follow the plan of capitulations laid down by your Excellency. Conforming myself to such measure the most utility may be reaped from in the present conjunction, and upon this I desire your Excellency's determinate answer with all possible expedition. As I cannot for the above reasons set on any negotiation with Bájiráv for the cessation of these forts, neither, as your Excellency is well advised, can we undertake the possession and maintenance of them for our nation.

The absence of our fleet and several other reasons have hitherto prevented my taking any precise resolution about a provisional maintenance of those forts, in case of withdrawing the artillery and the best part of the garrisons for the reinforcement of Goa. But before the arrival of the frigate with your Excellency's order for effectuating this evacuation I hope I shall be able to take the proper measures with respect also to the forwarding and completing the project of withdrawing the garrison, and upon which your Excellency depends in your present exigency.

As to the purchase of the gallivats for the guard of your rivers, I shall immediately talk about it to Senhor John de Souza Ferras and give him all the encouragement and assistance in it that lies in my power. But I doubt of his being able to procure vessels fit for this service.

All our merchants have free and ample liberty to transport to Goa all sorts of provisions, and from me they shall receive all suitable encouragement for that purpose.

As to what relates to the latter, your Excellency esteems might be of service to your affairs in their present situation, on my writing such a one to the Bhouslás as you intimate, your Excellency may be disabused of such hopes, on my assurance that we have no such opinion of any of these Indian powers as that they would respect to our interposition in a point where

their interest was against it, nor have we any trust or confidence in their friendship beyond their conveniency being served in it. I shall, however, in compliance with your Excellency's request, notify to them what you desire, but without flattering myself with the hopes of any success.

The accounts and vouchers your Excellency requires for the debt due from your state to the Hon'ble Company will be ready to be sent to your Excellency by the first occasion.

I am, &c.,
STEPHEN LAW.

The 1st December 1739.

Bombay Castle, 11th December 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble STEPHEN LAW, Esq., President and Governor.

THOMAS WATERS.	JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.	JOHN MORLEY.

WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President acquaints the Board that the express boat despatched to the Viceroy of Goa with a letter agreeable to our Resolution in Council of the 29th ultimo is returned with answer. Translation of which is entered after this consultation wherein the disposal of Chaul being left to us without reserve, agreed that we accept of this procuration and assignment of the brass artillery, and proceed on our first scheme of tendering it to the Maráthás and endeavouring to make a merit to them of this performance, since they will see it is evidently in our hands to keep it ourselves or choose a possessor for it. And that Captain Inchbird be appointed to treat with Bájiráv or Chimnáji in this matter, carrying with him proper credentials and instructions for that purpose, and in the meantime till the negotiation is concluded we will endeavour to delay the evacuating the place.

STEPHEN LAW.
THOMAS WATERS.
JOHN GEEKIE.
THOMAS STONESTREET.
JOHN MORLEY.
WILLIAM SEDGWICKE.

LETTER *from the* VICEROY *of* GOA *to the* PRESIDENT.

Goa, the 4th December 1739.

I have this instant received your Honor's letter of the 12th instant, N. S., and immediately despatch you the boat back with an answer, as well because your Honor recommends it as that the importance of the matter we treat of requires it. Without wasting your time in a repetition of my grateful acknowledgments due to your good will which appears so manifestly in the expression contained in your last letter, and increases my obligations to your Honor, as well as engages the returns of my nation for the much it owes you, this is to

acquaint your Honor that I concur with your opinion for setting a treaty on foot in this matter with Bájiráv and subscribe entirely to whatever you shall dispose of; for the rest referring myself to the letter before I wrote your Honor on this subject. In which although the circumstance of admitting of a treaty with Bájiráv, in lieu of the negotiation proposed with the Sháhu Rája, was omitted, yet full powers from me were comprehended in it for your choosing and exceeding of the means that should appear to your Honor to carry the most convenience with them, and I would repeat the same, assuring your Honor that without any restriction I shall allow for good entirely whatever your Honor shall judge most useful for the conclusion of this business, so that without waiting for any further intimations from me your Honor may agree and adjust such capitulations as you shall find fitting to admit of in the present conjuncture, and determine upon every thing in regard to this matter that you may esteem most conformable to the interests of our State.

I repeat to your Honor the urgency of my want of the transport of the principal part of the garrison of Chaul to this city to be effected with the least delay possible.

The frigate is in point to proceed instantly, and, as I before advised, your Honor will make directly for your port, there to receive your orders and join such vessels as your Honor may have in readiness to send to Chaul on execution of the scheme communicated to your Honor.

Being, &c.,
THE COUNT OF SANDOMIL.

Bombay Castle, 13th December 1739.

The President signed the following instructions to Captain James Inchbird on his deputation to Bájiráv and Chimnáji :—

"To

CAPTAIN JAMES INCHBIRD.

SIR,—Herewith you will receive translation of the Viceroy's letters to me, by which you will observe that the two forts of Chaul and Marol are left entirely to my disposal, and they will likewise serve you for your guidance on the treaty which I now trust to your conduct and management to carry on in regard to the delivery of these places with the Marátha Government.

You will see by the tenor of these letters what is expected from us by the Portuguese, which you are to consult the good issue of as far as you find it practicable; at the same time you are to make all the merit you can to the Maráthás of the preference given to them over the Siddis, Mánáji, or any other nation whatever. You are to remark to them likewise that we cannot give greater proof of the sincerity of our assurances of friendship than putting into their hands so strong a hold, and so fine a seaport, which must prove that we have no views of extending our dominions, or seeking to establish new fortresses in their country, since we voluntarily and manifestly part with so fair an occasion.

As it is not unlikely that they may affect undervaluing this offer on their presumption that the place must sooner or later fall into their hands, and that they discourse upon it as their own already, and therefore will yield to no terms or make any concessions to the Portuguese or us in consideration of this cession, you will naturally reply to this that in whatever hands

those forts came they would prove by their natural strength and advantageous situation so great an accession to the power in possession, that it would cost them perhaps the expense of much blood and treasure to wrest them out of it. All which, with the hazard of the event, is now plainly saved to them by this mediation of ours, and our warranting the delivery of the fortifications to them. For which service we insist upon nothing for ourselves but the confirmation and commerce which is likewise advantageous to their own State.

I would have you, then, use your best endeavours to gain for the Portuguese the most advantageous capitulation you can, according to the tenor of their own proposals; but if the Maráthás will hearken to no terms of pacification, you must still take notice that you are to conclude for their delivery to their order on the best or any conditions you may obtain. The Siddis we know are not able to maintain possession of them, and the letting Mánáji A'ngria seize them would only increase the power of a faithless treacherous pirate, and in both cases disoblige these more powerful neighbours, to whom we should give an handle of complaint, without any benefit to ourselves, since we are determined against engaging in the maintenance of more country than what we have at present.

On the whole you have my full power to treat and ultimately conclude and ratify the treaty you shall transact with them in this matter, for as it will bear no delay or loss of time in writing backward and forward, and you are fully instructed of our interest and the circumstances of this transaction, you are to put the last hand to it without further order from hence, adjust the means of delivery, and return hitherto as soon as you have completed these affairs.

You herewith likewise receive my letters to Bájiráv and Chimnáji, which you are to take care of the delivery.

I command you to the divine protection and am,

Sir,
Your loving friend,
STEPHEN LAW.

Bombay Castle, the 13th December 1739."

ENGLISH EMBASSY

TO THE

MARÁTHÁS IN 1739.

ENGLISH EMBASSY TO CHIMNA'JI APPA, GENERAL OF THE MARA'THA'S AT BASSEIN.

To

Captain JAMES INCHBIRD.

Sir,—Chimnáji, the Marátha General, having applied very urgently for a person to be deputed to them, and you being named by him as one that would be acceptable on the occasion for the purpose of a personal conference, wherein it may be requisite to treat of several matters and dependencies of great importance to the welfare of this island, we have on mature deliberation come to a resolution of sending you, on the part of the Hon'ble Company, on this deputation. You will herewith receive my credential letter and such presents as I could judge (or were to be procured) the most fitting and adapted to the liking of these people, to whom I would have you take proper notice of my friendly disposition in gratifying this their particular request of my sending you.

You are by experience so well versed in the nature, customs, and manners of the gentoo governments round us that I need add no instructions on those heads. As to the most material points which you may want authority or directions to propose or answer, and for your general guidance in the management of your conferences with Chimnáji, or those authorized to treat with you on his or their part, you will find them contained in the following articles:—

1st.—If the Maráthás are desirous sincerely to improve a good understanding, so we are the same.

2nd.—We will not suffer the Portuguese to attack them from any part of this island; therefore it will be needless for the Maráthás to erect any work near the passes, as such can be of no other use than to give us jealousy; and they must be sensible we have no sort of intention to violate the friendship which we openly profess a desire of maintaining.

3rd.—That as the real end of our holding Bombay is to circulate a free trade round us, so we wish to have some favour showed us in the duties on the rivers, which will encourage the resort of merchants, and prove thereby of more utility to the Maráthás than can arise to them by heavy impositions.

4th.—That we on our part are desirous of fixing on some terms of agreements tending to encourage the inhabitants on each side; and if any manufacturers of goods proper for us be set about in the places subject to the Maráthás, we shall willingly be purchasers thereof, provided we can be furnished on reasonable conditions.

5th.—That our force now maintained, as well by land as sea, is merely intended for our preservation; and, therefore, on having a suitable security of a friendly disposition from the part of the Maráthás we shall in no wise molest their navigation, but contrarywise afford a becoming assistance to them therein, to which end the waters leading to their river will be kept free. But since A'ngria under a borrowed name may attempt passing Máhím river and aim to injure us thereby, we hope no other vessels than those employed in trade will pass that way, as those of war may easily enter between this island and Karanja, and which we desire may be observed.

6th.—That such persons as have fled hither from the Marátha countries have now leave, and shall hereafter be permitted to return, and which may be depended on.

7th.—That as Chimnáji A'ppa may surmise we have attempted by our messenger to his master to establish matters on a footing in prejudice of him (Chimnáji), I now commit to you copy of my letter sent from hence.

8th.—Should any demands be made for loans of money as hinted to us by Bhiku Sináy, you may say that although we might in times past favour the Siddi thereof, yet we have been since ordered so peremptorily by the Company to avoid such practice as puts it out of our power to comply therewith.

9th.—Should tribute be demanded, you may reply that the trade of our island has been so reduced by the bordering troubles, and the heavy expense in supporting it with provisions, &c., brought from distant countries (when denied by the Maráthás), as renders us unable to submit to such an hardship, and which Chimnáji must be thoroughly sensible of.

10th.—If we are accused with assisting the Siddi and Portuguese heretofore in prejudice of the Maráthás, you may reply that what we did then was on a supposal that the destruction of either might tend to injure us; but on a further knowledge had of the Maráthás, considering the welfare of our dominions will be always consulted by them, and we consequently on good footing with them, we have for some time observed a becoming neutrality.

11th.—If we should be required to assist in reducing Mánáji, Sambháji and the Siddis, you may reply that Mánáji being at present in good terms with us, we cannot justify the entering into any measures against him, nor would it become us to molest the Siddis, as they are the immediate subjects of the Mogal, through whom we enjoy, at our several settlements, very advantageous privileges. But Sambháji, whilst he continues an enemy to us, will be annoyed as much as possible by the fleet we have for a long time been obliged to maintain in the protection of our trade against his attempts.

The above several points you will speak to and enforce, as occasion offers, being what at present occurs most material to caution you upon. But should there be any other matters wherein you are not furnished with replies, apply hither with all speed for our giving suitable directions.

I commend you to the divine protection, and

I am, &c.,
STEPHEN LAW.

Bombay Castle, the 8th June 1739.

FROM
CAPTAIN INCHBIRD,
TO
THE PRESIDENT.

HON'BLE SIR,—I have, since my last, had a conference with Chimnáji Appa and his Council, when he freely and openly declared the occasion of his sending. His indisposition incapacitated him to go through so many points; he therefore appointed his Council to handle the several points he wanted to be cleared up to him in regard to our future friendship, whereupon we withdrew to a place prepared for that purpose.

After some discourse foreign to our business, they asked me what number of men we had at Underi, and why they were there? Raghunáth was the spokesman. From this first question I suspected they were bringing a demand of money upon the anvil, which suspicion induced me to give them the following answer to prevent any such request. I told them, that this was one of the chief points which occasioned the Company's ill-treatment to the late Governor for lending that Government the Company's money, and induced the Company to tie up their Governors so as to put it absolutely out of their power to lend any money to any person or persons in all time coming. From this answer they gave the whisper one to another, from all which, and my management from the beginning with every one they sent to sound me, I apprehend stood off their modest request of a loan of money, which point, the night before at my apartments, Kondáji Mánkar carried to such a height with me that, after observing I could be free with him, I plainly told him that the Company would sooner see the island of Bombay sunk under water than they could or would comply with any such request. They next proceeded upon matters of friendship, and made a long discourse of the assistance we gave the Siddi when at the same time they had infested their country; observing, also, that we had been the occasion of putting them to the expense of many lákhs of rupees to no purpose. I told them, that in what I should now relate as to that affair, they should hear from me nothing but the truth. That our Government took compassion upon their case, and the miseries and misfortunes they brought upon themselves by their murdering blood-thirsty servants, and that at the same time Bájiráv showed great compassion and pity towards Siddi Abdul Rayman, their lawful master, whom they had shut out of their fort; and that if Bájiráv had not taken it in hand, the Governor of himself would not have been able to reinstate him in his father's Government. After this and many other reasons that I urged, they seemed pretty well seemingly satisfied as to that particular. After this, they resumed and summed up the whole of our management with the aid and assistance given by us from time to time to the Portuguese, all which measures of ours with them had rendered many of their efforts ineffectual and put them to a vast charge and expense; and the late and last supplies we gave them (the Portuguese) had cost them much blood and treasure. To all this I briefly replied, that what they had now affirmed was undeniable, and that all this was done by us to and owing to our friends, and that as they now were in the same capacity, they might expect and experience the same friendship from us upon occasion; and now since it had pleased God to crown their arms with success, we were induced to have another way of thinking, and endeavoured, as much as I could, to clear up our conduct with regard to the Portuguese, in the whole relating but what was fact. They then observed, since what was done and past could not be recalled, and since, notwithstanding all we could do, it had pleased Heaven thus to favour their arms in regard to that they had long wished for, and that as now they were our near neighbours, they expected the same sincere friendship as others had already experienced; and then they run through many articles, as warlike and naval stores, guns, powder, ball, and all else they could think on, and insisted upon having those supplies for their money, telling me that with God's blessing they hoped to conquer Daman and Chaul, and to have a strong fleet at sea to chastise their enemies. From which they foresaw the necessity there was we must have some dependence upon them, or at least to have a dependence upon each other; observing, also, that they were formerly friends, but then at a greater distance. But now as they were established nearer, and hoped they would soon have as much power by sea as they have by land, that it highly concerned us both, for our mutual utility, to have articles drawn and agreed to for the preservation and direction of our future friendship, and talked of high terms in regard to a free navigation for merchants. Upon which I observed to them the hardships merchants now underwent, in regard to the coasts being pestered with so many cruisers imposing their passes and such hardships upon the fair dealer, that there was almost a stagnation of trade; and that if it was not

maturely taken into consideration, to the end that merchants may have a free navigation and commerce upon this coast, this country must in course be deprived of so many blessings and benefits it received from trade, and might daily be augmented by proper measures. To which they replied, that it was much in the Company's power to assist and advise them as to the means and measures to be pursued for the restoring and reviving trade. Then I told them my best notions; and that theirs was a good country, and that it entirely lay in their own breasts to make themselves happy and considerable in it, by encouraging trade, by making the duties and taxes to be imposed upon it light and easy to the fair trader, and granting foreign merchants their protection and free navigation at sea at an easy rate, which was the true policy of all great minds who proposed to render themselves considerable in the world; and that they might assure themselves of your Honor's sincere and hearty concurrence to promote so laudable a purpose for the public good, and consequently the parties immediately concerned; and that I was very ready to give them my notion and opinion with regard to any points or articles they expected to be concluded if they would once come to particulars. But as your Honor did not know Chimnáji A'ppa's particular business with me, I had not a full commission to draw out articles; but at the same time did not doubt but that your Honor would concur to any reasonable proposals consistent with the honor and credit of our nation, and the mutual interest of both parties; and as Chimnáji Appa was urgent for entering into articles for the preservation of our friendship and the conduct of the Governors and officers in his absence, I thought the speediest way of doing of it was for them to draw out their notions, in which I promised my assistance, which would most conduce to the establishing our mutual friendship; and so soon as this was done and agreed upon I would undertake to lay it before your Honor and Council, and not doubt to obtain your Honor's immediate concurrence, commission, and instructions for finally concluding our agreement to our mutual satisfaction.

Although they allow your Honor's compliment to the Sháhu Rája to be a piece of good policy, they greatly resent your not consulting them in it first; and though I have been at much pains to persuade them to the contrary, yet they still persist, as they were our neighbours we ought first of all to have made our application to them, when they would not only have given us a safe conduct, but, also, sent a proper person along with us to introduce us to the Sháhu Rája. They harp so much upon this step, that in case Captain Gordon has any instructions to create a jealousy in Sháhu Rája of Bájiráv's greatness, you may depend upon it they have it.

After this they entered upon particulars. The first article was, that all merchants that take their pass should only have a free navigation. At last with much difficulty and many arguments agreed to the exception of the Company's vessels, and all merchants under their protection belonging to their several Settlements and Factories. They observed that Surat was a great mart, and that many merchants perhaps would apply to us for our pass and colours, but if we underhand granted any such, they would deem such grant a breach of this treaty of peace. My return to this was that, in case your Honors accepted of it, we were above these mean practices; which they said they were willing to believe, and would easily discover a contrary practice, either with regard to this or any other dependency where our commerce extended. The next article was that as they were determined (through the blessing of God) to take Daman and Chaul at all hazards, they therefore expected to be supplied with guns, powder, shot, shells, lead, iron, steel and all other naval stores for their money. To this I answered, that as to guns, powder, ball, and shells it was not in our power to supply them, but as to all other merchandise the port was free to them as to all other friends. They then retorted our supplying the Portuguese, and that they should expect the same. I told them they might as soon as any other of our friends rely upon what stores we could spare; but if the four former articles be stipulated in the treaty, they might make such demands as even to take the guns out of our fort, or upon

refusal to call it a breach of the articles, which ended upon my telling them they need not doubt but that we would readily for their money supply them with any thing we could well spare from our own needs, wherewith they seemed satisfied. The third article was a free passage, not only of their merchants, but also war vessels, through Máhím river, which I told them would be only granted to their trading vessels. Because they well knew we had neighbours, though at peace now with them we would have little dependence upon, and this would give them an opportunity of doing us an injury under a borrowed name, and such like disguises; and as we would engage ourselves that their enemies should not enter that river, nor their territories on that side attacked nor molested on any account, and as there was a free passage, and the distance not far between Bombay and Karanja, they had no reason to insist upon it and we for the above reasons could not give it up. They then insisted upon their subjects who had deserted this country being left at full liberty to return, and that no underhand practices should be used to detain them. I then told them, I was sorry they had such a mean opinion of our friendship to think us capable of such low practices, and that the sequel of our friendship would soon convince them to the contrary. They then desired I would send my writer to take down their notions of the articles of treaty, and that I would send these to Bombay for your Honor's answer, my commission, and further instructions for completing the agreement. After this I made several observations of many occurrences and accidents that were incident to navigation and merchandise, which must also be reduced into articles; and that I was very ready to give my opinion and assistance as to every particular point to hasten and facilitate a conclusion, which they seemed very anxious to be done, which they then put a good face upon, and seemed to approve, and then conducted me again to Chimnáji, with whom I talked the affair over in general terms of friendship. He observing that it was necessary that we two should become one, and deem each other's enemies ours. Whereupon I explained the neutral part of a third person between two friends, and that upon such falling out we could undertake no more, than our friendly offices, to bring their differences to an amicable conclusion. But in case their enemy happened to be also our enemy, then mutual measures might be concerted, as far as each other was interested in the enmity, for reducing the common enemy to reason.

According to my promise I sent my writer to take down their notions relating to the articles, and with him a sketch of what I thought was equally fit and necessary for both parties, and most conducive to make our future agreement lasting and desirable. But they had no regard to these, and notwithstanding I desired to be sent for, to remove any seeming difficulty they might suggest to any of the articles in my scheme, they drew out nine other articles of their own, and sent them to me, to which they said they would have no reply, until I had advised you of them, and received ample power to treat and agree upon the whole, which nine articles I now send you enclosed with the sketch of my notions; however I shall endeavour in the morning to have an hearing and to touch upon such of those articles I know your Honor can't comply with, having prepared this letter so far till I can discover more of their minds.

This morning I sent to desire a conference with regard to the nine articles, but find them fully resolved not to hear me upon any point till I previously declare my power for completing that treaty in their first article. I remarked they would oblige us not to suffer our fleet to give convoy to any foreigners that have not their passes, which I think inconsistent with the honor of our nation. The fourth article, that you shall supply them with guns, powder, ball and shells, which I think you cannot comply with for the reasons already mentioned. But they say you did it to the Portuguese, and why not to them; who, they knew, sent the copper

they took from the Surat ship to Bombay, to purchase powder, shells and shot, and seem to be unalterable as to this article. In their fifth article they insist, you shall not assist the Portuguese any ways, with stores or succours, to their prejudice; but that at the same time they shall have a general supply of war materials. In the eighth article they lord it over you and the Sháhu Rája also, and say that you shall not apply to him upon any account without their previous advice and consent. In the ninth article they insist, that they have a right to all wrecks driven upon their shore by distress of weather, and I believe will not depart from this article, because, they say, we have the Portuguese for our example. Upon the whole I find they can say one thing and write another. However from what observations I have made, it is my sincere opinion your Honor will hardly find a more favourable opportunity than the present, to conclude a treaty with them upon better terms. I have observed in the course of all my negotiations with these people there is amongst them what they deem a lucky time, which I believe is what now offers. They say that Daman is easily to be mined, and flatter themselves by such a practice to carry that place, and promise themselves the same success in reducing Chaul, which, as the Portuguese affairs now stand, is not improbable, of which your Honor is the best judge, and whether they will not be upon more ambiguous and disadvantageous terms should you slip this opportunity. However I don't doubt but your Honor will take the whole under your wise consideration, and determine yourself to the choice of that which is best for the honor of the nation and the Company's interest, and that in the meantime your Honor and Council will lose no time in fortifying your town, as I can plainly discover these people are very jealous of your maritime power, they never will want for a pretence to make use of all advantages.

If this affair receives your Honor's approbation, I think it will not be amiss to write Chimnáji and reduce your articles as concise as possible. I do assure your Honor I have not been wanting to support, with my best arguments, my notions with regard to the fourteen articles[1] now enclosed, referring the whole to your Honor's better judgment. You cannot be too expeditious in your resolution and despatches to me. I conclude, with great respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Yours, &c.,

JAMES INCHBIRD.

Bassein, the 27th June 1739.

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[1] *Vide* Appendix A.

ENGLISH EMBASSY TO THE COURT OF SHA'HU RA'JA, KING OF THE MARA'THA'S.

The President's Letter to Sha'hu Ra'ja.

Begins with giving him his titles and the usual compliments.

On my entering upon the charge of the Government of this island of Bombay it became immediately and naturally my care to pay my respects to your Majesty, whose health God preserve, with increase of prosperity for many years. To this end therefore I send Captain Gordon, a person of trust, to your Majesty's presence, there to testify the great zeal and desire I have to deserve your friendship, and approve my readiness to serve your Majesty on all occasions, wishing thereby to establish a good correspondence betwixt your Majesty's subjects and those under this Government, more especially as they are become so much nearer neighbours.

It is known to the world how much benefit and advantage may result from a free traffic and commerce being maintained with the countries now belonging to your Majesty, situate as they are with respect to this place, whence it may be carried on, and I do not doubt but your Majesty will be pleased to allow this consideration just weight and attention, as the same is of so great importance; and the consequence is plain, that your territories which border upon ours will become the centre of traffic, whereby your subjects inhabitants of them will become more rich and opulent than those of your other provinces. I wish your Majesty a happy and prosperous reign, with increase of greatness, and to myself many occasions of being employed in the service of your Majesty.

The President signed his instructions to Captain William Gordon as follows :—

To

Captain WILLIAM GORDON.

Sir,—Having appointed you as a proper person to be entrusted with my letter to the Sháhu Rája and the management of such concerns as you will find by the following instructions committed to your care and discretion, on receipt of this you are to set out with all convenient expedition for Sátára in the Deccan, or whatever place you shall learn that prince for the time present resides in, having in your charge the said letter and the presents we send accompanying it, as by the list annexed.

You will likewise receive herewith some other letters addressed to his chief officers, with suitable presents, of the delivery of which you are to take care.

As you cannot be so well versed in the language and forms necessary to be used with these countries' Governments, I send with you a proper person well acquainted in those matters, having heretofore been employed by the Siddi in messages to Sháhu Rája, who may therefore be serviceable to you in the course of your negotiation. He is a gentoo, by name Bhikájipant.

On your arrival at Sháhu Rája's court you are to see the letter and presents delivered with the usual ceremonies, which you are beforehand to get yourself instructed in.

As one great inducement to the step at present taken in sending you is the view of gaining some information and insight into the Government interests and designs at that court I would have you use your best industry and management to obtain a sufficient knowledge of the state of the Sháhu Rája's Government, and who are the principal men that direct or influence his resolutions, what are their several views or interests, and the general disposition and drift of their councils, which it may be the easier for you to come at, as they observe little or no secrecy in them, and may serve not only to guide you for the present in your application and conduct, but be useful to us in future.

As we are informed Bájiráv does not want for great and powerful enemies at that court, you will do well to enquire who they are, and how much they may be depended upon; and it will not be amiss, if you see a proper occasion and opening to instil a jealousy of his ambition and growing power, which must be much increased by the accession of these conquests from the Portuguese, and consequently it must be high time to check or put a stop to. However as we are afraid of his interest and credit being but too prevalent, I have thought proper to send him a letter on this occasion, with a present in the eastern manner, and it will be necessary you guard against making him an enemy, lest he might be excited to aim at doing us ill offices.

In the conference you may have with the Sháhu Rája, or his ministers, you are to assure them, that on my coming to the Government my first care was to seek the means of renewing the ancient good correspondence and friendship betwixt our Governments, to which end I had pitched on this expedient of sending you as an early mark of the sincerity of our intentions.

You are at the same time most carefully to guard against their suspicions, that any fear or apprehensions of Bájiráv's arms may have a share in this resolution, letting them know that, though we prefer peace and a good harmony with our neighbours, we are determined to defend ourselves in the best manner we are able in case we are attacked.

You are to represent to them also, and which is indeed the most material matter, how much it is their interest and advantage to live upon amicable terms with us, it being notorious that our nation has never meddled with their religion, or had any views of conquest or extending our dominions in these parts, where trade is our sole business and end of residence; and which must be equally a benefit to their country, the superfluities of which we take off their hands, and import treasure and other commodities advantageous to them both in the consumption and customs,—all which you may at large explain and enforce.

By this means I would have you draw on some declaration of that prince's intentions; and if without being amused or deceived you find they are favourable to our purpose, you may intimate how agreeable it will be to me, that some treaty or negotiation be set on foot, as they are now become our neighbours, for the establishing and settling a firm friendship, on the terms to be mutually agreed upon, concerning which I shall willingly hearken to any just and reasonable proposal.

And as their new conquered territories lie at present contiguous to or so near our island, you may insist much on the benefit, the preserving a free and uninterrupted trade will naturally be of to them, and serve to render them the most flourishing and rich part of their dominions.

If any overtures are made to you that you judge may be depended upon and require a conclusion, advise me fully, that I may give you suitable instructions; otherwise you are to come away when you have done your business, keeping a diary of your procedure and transactions until you return.

I commit you to the divine protection and

Am, &c.,

Bombay Castle, the 10th May 1739. STEPHEN LAW.

Captain Gordon's Letter to the President and Council.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—I now beg leave to lay before you a narrative of my proceedings and transactions at the Sháhu Rája's court, with such things as occurred to me on my journey from and to the time inserted, day by day, and am to inform you that the statue of a cow and calf intended as part of the present to the Rája was returned on the bomb ketch, as the badness of the ways would not admit of carrying it.

On the 12th May we left Bombay, and on the 13th arrived at Dunda-Rájápur, being civilly received by the Siddi. On the 14th set out in a gallivat, being joined with his man appointed as a guide and introducer to Shripatráv. On the 15th an officer of the Maráthás' kept us prisoners, blaming our not bringing Bájiráv's or Chimnáji's pass; but after seeing our letters he released us and granted a guard, wherein we passed by several *chaukis* of A'ngria's. On the 19th we narrowly escaped a body of Sambháji A'ngria's men. On the 20th mounted the hills, which were very difficult to ascend. On the 22nd entered a fine country, well peopled. On the 23rd being near Sátára, distant hence about 160 miles, rested at a place provided for accommodating travellers, where the head of the Jogis, named Vetau Náik, courteously treated us on being told we were English. Afterwards the head officer of Sátára assigned us other accommodations, not so good as the Jogis'. On the 25th we were conducted to Antájipant, Shripatráv's officer in Sátára, who gave us a courteous reception, and presented me with a cloth after their manner, telling us the Sháhu Rája was five days' journey off in besieging a place of the Mogal's called Myrah. I gave him in return a ring. On the 27th, being provided with a guard, set out for Myrah, and on the 29th put up at a large town called Ramapatoure (Rahimatpur?), having passed several smaller before. On the 31st put up at a town called Amarapur, passing several large walled towns, some inhabited, others not. On the 1st June got to Adjure Bunall, a small, ruinous town, where the Rája had pitched his tent, a mile from Myrah, distant hence about two hundred and forty miles. On the 2nd June we were appointed to meet Shripatráv; but an adopted son of the Rája's coming from an attempt on Narrampent, a rich place of the Mogal's, and Shripatráv going to meet him, we were disappointed. The garrison of Myrah made a sally with one hundred and fifty men and took some booty from one thousand horse and three thousand foot of the Maráthás. On the 3rd June saw Shripatráv, who asked how far Bombay lay from Bassein, how broad the river which parted us and if passable without boats, if we had quitted Bándra, if Bombay was walled and whether it had a ditch or not, and if we had any other fort within the town; to which we gave proper replies, and told him the intent of our coming, and that we were desirous of his friendship, to which he gave a civil answer. Soon after the man I carried with me was sent for by him, and several questions of an indifferent nature were asked him, and at last whether our dread of the Maráthás had not occasioned the visit, to which answer was given that friendship alone moved us, that on the arrival of a new Governor I was allowed to come, and that we were a good sort of people, and permitted the exercise of all religions.

On the 7th one Mahádájipant, an officer of Bájiráv's, attended the Rája with letters from his master. The Rája said, he supposed Bájiráv and Chimnáji had got a safe place now; and then Mahádájipant mentioned the English being come in order to solicit his friendship, to which he answered, what then; they are a good sort of people, and if I do give them my protection, will Bájiráv molest them? No, answered the Pant; he could have no such thought. And then the Rája told him a fable, intimating that by keeping on good terms with the English he would be a greater gainer than by breaking with them.

On the 8th we had an audience of the Rája in a mean place he had erected with his own hands for his present convenience during the siege. He was very gracious to us, and seemed delighted with the birds that made a part of our present, expressing a willingness to do us good offices. But we soon understood that Bájiráv is so powerful, that he makes small account of the Rája; and it was ill taken that we first saw Shripatráv, a man famous for the love of money, though our going to him was influenced by the Siddi's man. We also erred in applying to Antájipant, Shripatráv's Agent at Sátára, instead of Kessuripant, an officer appointed by the Rája.

As we could not see Virubái, a woman of consequence, we sent her letters and present. She gave a civil profession in return.

Nároráv was next visited, who blamed our applying to Shripatráv, alleging he was our old friend and employed always by Governor Horne; but when he found our errand was mere formality, he alleged we had not erred much, as Shripatráv, though not willing to exercise any friendship, might, on being disgusted, do us ill offices and retard our return. He then enquired whether we had anything for Bájiráv, and being told yes, he said it was wisely considered, and we ought to attend his son with it.

Letters arrived from Bájiráv, encamped near Barhánpur. The report was, that he wanted large supplies, and expected to be speedily joined with a body of Rajputs and three Rájas with powerful armies from the northward. Advices came also from Delhi that Nádir Sháh seemed disposed to march against the Maráthás, on which the Rája with much vehemence plucked off his turban (being a mark of great concern), saying will Bassein and all our new acquisitions make amends for twenty-two thousand brave men lost there?

On visiting Bájiráv's son he was very inquisitive to know the motives for our coming. We assured him we have no other than to make our new Governor's compliments; but he seemed greatly to disregard us, and we are informed he entertained a high jealousy of us.

On the 10th June we were made acquainted with one Eshvantráv Madia, a great Sardár and principal favourite, and Jánoji Khanderáv, chief writer; and therefore we prepared a present of some of the cloth we carried and gave them, as also to Fattesing, one of the Rája's adopted sons.

On the fourteenth, on advice from Delhi of Nádir Sháh's return, the Rája gave presents to his several head officers, from ten thousand rupees to two pagodas, vainly boasting the fear of his arms had driven the king of Persia back.

On the 17th Shripatráv was the third time detected of supplying the besieged with ammunition. We sent to solicit him to favour the Rája's dismission for our return, but he directed us to forbear troubling him any more; when he wanted us he should send for us.

On the 19th Venkatráv (Bájiráv's General in charge of the forces employed against Goa) returned with four hundred horse, and the Rája advanced a small distance to meet him; but the other declined it, alleging he owed no sort of subjection to the Rája, on which the latter turned aside to hunt; but Bájiráv's son hearing of this, prevailed on the General to wait on the Rája afterwards, excusing the late error, which the Rája seemed pleased with. It is reported the Portuguese have compounded for six lákhs of rupees, of which thirty-five thousand were paid down and the value of one hundred and sixty-five thousand delivered in plate. The forces are to continue near Goa until the whole is paid, and two thousand rupees more are monthly assigned towards their maintenance.

The return of Nádir Sháh is confirmed; and a report runs current that the Maráthás will proceed for seizing Delhi.

On the 21st June a party arrived from Goa giving notice the Portuguese had, by force of arms, regained their fortress, killed nine hundred of the Maráthás and avoided paying any money.

On the 25th, after repeated solicitations, the Rája admitted us to take our leave, desiring his friend, the Governor of Bombay, would not omit to send him eight Guinea hens, two pairs of turkeys, some Bussora pigeons, a little mummy, and any kind of curious birds. He took a fancy to my sword, which I delivered him, and he promised to hasten his answer to the letters, which would be with me at the next town.

On the 26th I visited the several great men, including Bájiráv's son, who treated me with much civility, and gave me a trifling present to the Governor, excusing it not being in his power to procure any thing better.

On the 27th the Rája sent for the man, who attended me up, inquiring if I had any more to offer, and observed by saying we were a good and peaceable people, desirous of commerce, molested none in the exercise of their religions, and that preserving our friendship would highly contribute to the prosperity of their late conquests. But, said he, that will be of small utility to me, as I have assigned the whole to Bájiráv; and if they are a peaceable people, why do they meddle with my servants the A'ngriás? This discourse was ascribed to the Siddi's Agent having hinted we carried up a large sum of money (which the Rája hoped to get) and had left a statue of a gold cow and calf behind, not being able to carry it over the mountains. I returned our man back to theRája to acquaint him we were never the aggressors with A'ngria, and kept up a force at a heavy expense purely for preventing his destroying our trade, nor had we in any instance given whomsoever offence. Our assisting the Portuguese was in virtue of our friendship to them as neighbours, and as a change had now happened in favour of the Maráthás, we should maintain the like regard to them as we had before done to the others, with which the Rája seemed satisfied, and gave orders for the letter to be written immediately.

On June the 30th the letters from the Rája and others being arrived at an adjacent town, whereto I had retired, we set out on our journey back by the way of Poona, as being most easy and convenient. That place seems well built, and abounds with people, and is the chief residence of Bájiráv, who has a great extent of country, to appearance more fertile and valuable than any other I had passed through. I visited the foundry, where I saw many coehorns and bomb shells said to have been cast there, and a form of a thirteen-inch mortar. I was told they make such with great ease, and have learned the art of running iron for making shot. Bájiráv is said to give great encouragement to weavers for fabricing such things as are useful to the natives, and whereof great quantities are imported to Bombay and other parts. His territories are well peopled, and the poorer sort, in the farming way, are rendered easy in their rents, which causes his extent of dominion to be in a very flourishing condition, more so than any other in the possession of the Maráthás.

July the 13th.—We got to Thána, in which we were well used by the principal officer then there. It seems to be a regular fortress, and the Maráthás have lately erected two round towers overlooking the other works, wherein are two batteries of guns, and the top is said to be bomb-proof. The foundation of two others of the like kind are laid, and more are intended to be raised.

On the 14th July we arrived safe at Bombay.

By the best intelligence I could obtain the Sháhu Rája had approved of the seizing of Thána and the island of Sálsette; but the attack on Bassein was undertaken without his consent, not being desirous of the total expulsion of the Portuguese. But as Bájiráv's power is uncontrolled by whomsoever, the Rája is compelled to an exercise of an outward civility to him.

I was not able to come at the real views or intentions of Bájiráv, though it was the general voice he had no design of molesting Bombay, as it is esteemed useful for advancing the prosperity of his new acquisitions. The Jogis mentioned under the 23rd June (who seem to be well acquainted with the state of the whole) assured me there was no present design on foot in prejudice of us; and certain they were the Rája had a good opinion of us, as had all others, and this I found confirmed by the several discourses I had with the principal men.

The sentiments of most are that Bájiráv has in view to throw off his allegiance to the Rája, after making his efforts in levying a large sum from the Mogal's dominions, which he intended to execute speedily, and then set heartily about equipping a considerable force.

One Anto Náik Bira, a merchant of repute at Poona, desired to have a person to reside at Bombay for transacting his affairs, which I promised to lay before your Honor and Council. He is esteemed to be much in Bájiráv's confidence.

I observed that several of the towns were empty of people, being gone to the wars, and others contained large bodies of men, both of horse and foot. The Rája had with him near twenty-six thousand fighting men with a numerous company of pioneers, artificers, shop-keepers, and others. Bájiráv had forty thousand soldiers; but what number were gone towards Goa I could not perfectly learn, nor how many were this way. It is certain they can raise large armies with much facility. He is very secret in his purposes, insomuch that the forces which attend him are often ignorant where he intends to lead them. They follow him with an implicit obedience.

I have throughout the foregoing hinted at the power of Bájiráv, who will always be capable of rendering abortive any application made to the Sháhu Rája, and probably show his resentment thereat; so that although a civil correspondence with the said Rája may not be amiss, care must be taken that he is not solicited for what interferes with Bájiráv, whose authority at court is even such, that in the absence of the Rája, and contrary to the advice of the seven principal Counsellors, he can enforce a complete obedience to his sole mandates.

I now deliver the account of expenses and presents made by me, exclusive of the articles I received here. What I had given me in return are valued at about two hundred and forty rupees, which, if your Honor and Council do not approve of my keeping, I shall readily resign.

I am, with the utmost respect,
Hon'ble Sir and Sirs, &c.,
WILLIAM GORDON.

Bombay, the 21st July 1739.

RETURN OF CAPTAINS INCHBIRD AND GORDON FROM BASSEIN AND SATA'RA TO BOMBAY.

Bombay Castle, Friday, 20th July 1739.

At a Consultation, present:

The Hon'ble Stephen Law, Esq., President and Governor.

W. Chas. Rigby. | Thomas Stonestreet.
John Geekie. | John Morley.

William Sedgwicke.

Read and approved our last consultation.

The President takes notice to the Board that Captain Inchbird being returned the 15th instant, he had deferred summoning a meeting on account of the attendance himself and the members were obliged to give to the business of the quarter sessions, but that in the meantime he had ordered a translation to be made of the articles of agreement[1] drawn up in the gentoo language, and digested and framed by Chimnáji and his Council in concert with Captain Inchbird, which are now laid before the Board.

And previous to the examination of them in order, Captain James Inchbird attending, is called in, and desired to give the Board the best information he can relating thereto.

Captain Inchbird then proceeds to acquaint the Board that the Maráthás outwardly profess an inclination to cultivate a friendly correspondence with us, and seem in general convinced of the advantages that may arise to their new conquered countries from our neighbourhood as a trading people, which is likewise the more to be believed as their present bent and views seem to be the improvement of their new conquests, which they give out they have much at heart. Bájiráv having hitherto alienated or assigned no part thereof in gifts or jághírs, as has been customary with his other countries, from which it is presumed he will reserve them entirely at his own disposition. Notwithstanding which probable benefit from our nation, which they allow and grant, he says, they will still preserve a jealousy of our island, and watch all opportunities of bringing us into a state of dependence and tributaryship to them. That as to the articles now before us he had disputed to the last every point pretended and claimed by the Maráthás, which is therein inserted different from the draft sent over from hence (for which see our last consultation), and had at length yielded his assent consistently with the general tenor and meaning of his instructions to the said articles, excepting a clause by them attached to the thirteenth, whereby they would oblige us to guarantee all the rivers, even out of our boundaries, from any attacks of the Portuguese, alleging a very just reason for his denial, that we had neither a right nor power to make and observe such a stipulation, and the same was accordingly by him protested against, and agreed to refer the same ultimately to the hon'ble the President, by whom and Chimnáji the said articles and conventions are to be interchangeably ratified.

Captain Inchbird having withdrawn, the Board proceeds to the examination of the said articles, and it being debated whether to come to an agreement or not upon the terms therein

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[1] *Vide* Appendix A.

demanded of us (excepting always the clause of guaranteeing the rivers which is not in our power), the President represents to the Board, that on a perusal of the said articles there appears no material concession or deviation from the instructions given by the consent and with the approval of this Board to Captain Inchbird for his coming to some adjustment or treaty with these people; that the present terms were accordingly assented to on our part by Captain Inchbird, as being the most moderate that appeared possible to obtain from a people elated with such a series of success against an European nation, notwithstanding which this agreement was still referred to this Government and to the President's ratification thereof in form; that he is persuaded from a knowledge of the honor and disposition of these people, that letters of expostulation will, without gaining any abatement from them or other good effects, only multiply arguments, and should this opportunity be slipped, perhaps lessen the weight of his remonstrances or application in future, when the conjunctures may not be even so favourable for coming to some agreement as they are at present; that as true the sixth article seems to leave room for disputes in future in case the Maráthás should be inclined to come to a rupture, but as our right and title are not given up therein, so they can never want a pretext to break with us, even if that were entirely removed. It is likewise to be remarked, that the opposition the Maráthás have hitherto met with on the part of this Government before the reduction of Bassein, might perhaps have retarded the execution of their schemes for attaining the dominion of this coast and setting up a sea force, but they are now so far advanced in their project and their power is so much increased by means of their late conquests, the commodiousness of harbours and neighbourhood of their dominions which surround this island, that a continuance of such an opposition would be not only dangerous but fruitless, as whatever advantage we may at present have over them by sea is more than balanced by the superiority of their force at land and their situation, so that there seems no more eligible a measure than embracing this opportunity of establishing terms of friendship with them for the present, in hopes that they will see reason to maintain a peace and good correspondence with us in future for their own interest, which in truth is all our dependence, on their considering us as a trading people and beneficial to their country without any views of extending our own dominions or of molesting theirs. That by this means it will not be our fault at least if we do not gain so much time as may strengthen our posture of defence, and serve till, on a faithful representation of the whole state of our situation to our hon'ble masters, we may receive their orders therein, which are hitherto entirely conformable to the steps already taken and to the agreement now in hand. Neither in case of a contrary conduct could we expect such a support from home as would be necessary. Allowing likewise that these orders might be owing to our hon'ble masters' misapprehension of the nature of these people and their Government, yet such are our present circumstances, evidently that the acting in contradiction to them might be attended with the worst consequences, such as bringing a war upon us we are not in the least prepared for, the total interruption of commerce, and the exposing the island to be straitened every way. Whereas even if they are not entirely avoided by this acceptance of the articles of agreement, there can be no fault or neglect laid to the charge of this Government, who have proceeded uniformly as well according to the plan laid down for our guidance by our hon'ble masters as suitable to the exigencies of our condition.

On mature consideration of the whole it is resolved, therefore, that the President do, on the part of the Hon'ble Company, accept of the said several articles (except the clause abovementioned in the thirteenth), and that a frame of the same with the requisite modifications in the expression 'as from his part' be immediately drawn out by his direction and approved by this Board, which together with those on Chimnáji's part are ordered to follow this consultation, in two columns, severally opposite to each other.

Mr. Stonestreet concurring to the above resolutions desires, however, leave of the Board to deliver in his sentiments in writing, which is permitted.

Captain Gordon, who was deputed to the court of Sháhu Rája as set forth in our consultation of the 7th and 10th May last, being returned on the 14th instant, the President communicates to the Board the Sháhu Rája's answer, Bájiráv's letter, and an order from the Sháhu Rája to Bájiráv and Chimnáji to consider the English as his friends (all which are ordered to follow this consultation); remarking withal that from the best intelligence procurable there appears no reason to doubt of Bájiráv's disregard of any subjection to the Sháhu Rája, whom he acknowledges only for form's sake, whilst his views tend apparently to fortify himself in a state of independence on him, of which the Sháhu Rája himself does not seem ignorant. Captain Gordon not being recovered enough from the fatigue of his journey to perfect the report of his procedure, had promised the President to get the same in readiness to lay before the Board next Council day.

STEPHEN LAW.
J. GEEKIE.
T. STONESTREET.
J. MORLEY.
W. SEDGWICKE.

Letter of SHÁHU RÁJA, *King of the Maráthás, to the* PRESIDENT *and* GOVERNOR *of Bombay, written in the gentoo tongue, without date.*

Begins with great compliments in the Persian style.

I present your Excellency with my respects. About this time the friendly letter your Excellency sent me by Captain Gordon came safe to hand and gave me great satisfaction. Your Excellency has written me particularly for settling a sincere friendship, all which, together with what the said Captain conferred upon with me personally, I have comprehended. There is no interruption in our friendship and your Excellency has on your part given no occasion for any, nor will in future.

All the countenance and favour desired of me to the trade and commerce betwixt your and my people, as we are now neighbours, shall not be wanting. The rest of what I had to say I have communicated to the said Captain Gordon, who will communicate the same to your Excellency.

Your Excellency may in every manner depend on being secure, and on the footing of friendship continue a good correspondence with me, which I shall be glad of.

An Order of SHÁHU RÁJA *to* BÁJIRÁV.

The English from the first have ever lived faithfully in amity with us. And now the Hon'ble Stephen Law, General of Bombay, has sent Captain William Gordon to me, who met at a place called Mirgem and represented to me their great desire of preserving a friendship with us. The procedure or policy of the English is of merchants, and they have always carried it with sincerity to our nation, and their desire is to continue to observe the same in future that they may deserve my favour, which I likewise very much and without fail desire.

Your friendship with the English is to be continued, and therefore all that you can do towards the increase of it fail not of doing, for they are men of one word. Therefore there will be no difference between you, as you must be assured of. And in any case see that you continue this friendship which will be convenient to them, and for which I trust your prudence.

N.B.—There is a duplicate of this order directed to Chimnáji Pandit, General of the Forces at Bassein, which was forwarded to him.

The Answer of BÁJIRÁV PANDIT, *Pradhán (Chief Minister), in the gentoo language, dated the 30th of the month Rabi-Ul-Aval, which answers in the English style to the 26th June 1739, begins with usual compliments as follows* :—

I have received your Excellency's letter and observed the contents, by which I likewise am advised that your Excellency has entered upon the Government of the island of Bombay, and that you desire a correspondence of friendship with the Most Serene Rájá, and it is fitting that your Excellency should desire the continuance thereof.

The contentment which the victorious success actually obtained by my arms has given your Excellency and which you congratulate upon was just. Your Excellency writes me that your island subsists by trade to the great benefit and advantage of the neighbouring countries, and that in regard to the interest of the subject and the improvement of the good of the country I should concur with the favour of my assistance thereto. And my desire is that the subjects should be advantaged, the trade be continued, and that our State have its interest and profits, and your Excellency will, I hope, with the continuance of your friendship contribute to the above ends more and more every day,

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WAR WITH THE ANGRIAS

WAR WITH THE A'NGRIAS.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 10th March 1755.

At a Committee, present:

The Hon'ble RICHARD BOURCHIER, Esq., President,

THOMAS BYFELD.	WILLIAM ANDREW PRICE
JOHN SPENCER.	SAMUEL HOUGH.

The President lays before the Committee three letters (as translated hereafter) from Nána, General of the Maráthás, earnestly desiring us to join our forces with theirs, and endeavour to subdue and demolish Tuláji A'ngria, likewise a set of articles proposed to him with his reply thereto, and as they in some respects differ,—Resolved that Messrs. Price and Hough proceed to Rámájipant, who is appointed by Nána to adjust all matters with the President, with full power and authority to settle things in the best manner for our hon'ble masters' interest.

The President further acquaints the Committee that at a late interview with Rámájipant he was very pressing for our attacking Gheria in conjunction with Nána's forces, but on considering the lateness of the season and some of our cruisers being dispersed on different services it was impossible to execute this plan; therefore it was at length determined that the Maráthás should attack Severmook (Suvarndurg), while we blockaded it by sea to prevent A'ngria's throwing in any succour that way,—Resolved, therefore, that the "Protector", the Ketch "Swallow", and the Prahm "Triumph" be immediately got in readiness for this service.

Adjourned.

R. BOURCHIER.

DANIEL DRAPER,

W. BYFELD.

Secretary.

J. SPENCER.

SAMUEL HOUGH.

Translate of a Letter from NÁNA *to the* PRESIDENT, *dated 8th February, and received the 18th following, 1755.*

After compliments.

Shivji Ransor on his arrival here informed me of what your Honor communicated to him, all of which was very agreeable to me. The friendship which has so long subsisted between us entitles me to these advices. I have now despatched Rámájipant, who will shortly take charge of the post I have assigned him, and I entreat you to put your fleet in readiness with all expedition, and write for the King's ships from Madras. My sole reason for despatching this to you is to stimulate you to put in execution the plan we have concerted ever since last year, and which I flatter myself with the satisfaction of being soon performed.

Translate of a Letter from Nána, dated 11th February, received on 8th March 1755.

By Shivji Ransor,—I received your Honor's long letter. Rámájipant likewise represented in a consultation here the purport of the conference he had with you. The many instances of the friendly disposition of your Government towards us are very satisfactory to me. My being so suddenly called to Karnátak prevented the execution of our designs last year, but I now entirely rely on your Honor, and have for that purpose despatched Rámájipant to you. He will confer with you about the expedition, which I earnestly request may be effected as soon as possible. It will be very agreeable to me, and I imagine meet with the approbation of your hon'ble masters. I have sent you the articles of agreement under my seal, and hope you will use all imaginable despatch in this affair. I am convinced of, and rely on your friendship. The management of all marine affairs is entirely left to you. The Almighty will crown our endeavours with success and more closely connect our friendship to our mutual interest.

Translate of a Letter from Nána Bájiráv to the President, received the 8th March 1755.

Last year your Honor and Rámájipant resolved to carry into immediate execution an enterprise you had jointly agreed on, but my going to Karnátak and the approaching rains prevented it at that time. You this year advised me twice of your readiness to perform the same and confirmed it by a verbal message delivered me by Shivji Ransor, in consequence of which I resolved to despatch the affair and sent Rámájipant to desire you to prepare your fleet and send for the men-of-war from Chinápattam. But you now accuse me of want of skill in maritime affairs, with which if I had been acquainted I should have better considered what I wrote you, and that on Rámájipant's arrival you will confer with him and write to me. The contents of my letter to your Honor arose from the verbal message you sent me by Shivji. You should not therefore now disappoint me. The execution of this scheme has all along principally depended on your Honor, and its being now frustrated will look amiss. I therefore request that you will expedite this business and quickly despatch Rámájipant to see it performed that our present harmony and friendship may be cultivated and improved. I have sent particular instructions to Rámájipant regarding this affair, which he will communicate to you.

Bombay Castle, 19th March 1755.

At a Committee, present:

The Hon'ble Richard Bourchier, Esq., President.

Thomas Byfeld.	William Andrew Price, and
John Spencer.	Samuel Hough.

Read and approved our last consultation of the 16th instant.

Messrs. Price and Hough having had an interview with Rámájipant and adjusted certain articles deemed necessary in respect to the intended attacks on Suvarndurg, &c., now lay them before the Committee, which being read and approved, are ordered to be entered after this consultation.

Directed likewise, in consequence of the above, that the "Protector", "Swallow", the Ketch "Viper", and the Prahm "Triumph", which are all the vessels now in port, be immediately got in

readiness for this service, fitted in the best manner, and the necessary instructions drawn out for the Commodore.

Adjourned.

DANIEL DRAPER,
Secretary.

R. BOURCHIER.
T. BYFELD.
J. SPENCER.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

Articles of Agreement settled by the Hon'ble Richard Bourchier, Esq., on behalf of the Hon'ble United East India Company and Rámájipant Subhédár in behalf of his master Nána Pandit Pradhán, General of the Maráthás.

1st.—That all the marine shall be immediately under the command of the English, and the management of all affairs, both by sea and land, carried on by the approbation of both parties.

2nd.—All vessels whatever that may be taken from Tuláji, shall be equally divided between the English and Maráthás, except the "Restoration", which is to be the sole property of the English.

3rd.—Bánkot and Himatgar, with the river belonging thereto, and with five villages to the southward of the said river, to be delivered to the English as the Hon'ble Company's property for ever, and the Maráthás not to levy any additional inland duties.

4th.—The English engage to keep the sea and prevent A'ngria's fleet from throwing succour into any place that may be attacked, but at this season only Suvarndurg, Anjanvel and Zoy Vizay.

5th.—All ammunition, guns and other stores that may be taken in the several forts in A'ngria's territories to belong entirely to the Maráthás.

6th.—If Mánáji's territories are jointly attacked, the fort of Candery, with its harbour, to be delivered unto the Hon'ble Company with the villages Revansa, Ramjankar, Sarall, Shamy, Mandavem, Kolgaon, Donbarem, Kihim, and Avás.

7th.—Any other articles that may be necessary to be agreed upon to be settled between the Governor and Nána Pandit Pradhán.

Signed and delivered our instructions to Commander William James as follows:—

"Sir,—It being determined to assist the Maráthás in destroying Tuláji A'ngria, you are hereby ordered, wind and weather permitting, to march the best of your way with such vessels as you have under your command to the port of Korallem, where you will join the Marátha fleet, which we and they have agreed is to be under your command. But you are to do nothing without consulting with Rámájipant, with whom we have settled some articles as have connection with the present enterprise, which you are to show a particular regard to. You will see by the articles that the naval forces are to prevent the enemy sending any forces to annoy the Maráthás in their attempts on any of his fortification on shore. But should it be judged necessary to have the bomb vessels hauled in shore to bombard any of the forts while they attack them by land, you are to give all the assistance you can of that kind, but you are not to lend any of your people, except a few of the train which you may lend them to point their cannon as you have pattemári boats with you. Keep us constantly advised of your proceedings. As Nánápant is commander of the

Maráthа fleet, he is also to be consulted with Rámáji; but remember that Rámájipant is invested by Nána with the chief, or rather sole, management of this expedition.

We are,
Your loving friends,
RICHARD BOURCHIER.
THOMAS BYFELD.
WILLIAM ANDREW PRICE.
JOHN SPENCER.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

Bombay Castle, 21st March 1775."

Bombay Castle, 22nd March 1755.

Received a letter from Rámájipant, the translate whereof is as follows:—

"After compliments.

I have received your Honor's friendly letter and observed the contents of it. The villages you now write to me about were not mentioned before; I therefore did not apply to Nána about them. But notwithstanding will now request them of him and deliver them to you. I agree with your Honor in opinion that it was most advisable to attack the northernmost fort first, and Shivji will give you the necessary information concerning it. I request your fleet may be immediately despatched and an order given the Commodore to receive me on board whenever I shall want to consult with him. Tuesday last was the day appointed for your fleet's sailing. The sooner they proceed the better, as we judge Sunday to be a proper day for commencing the attack. Samsher Bahádur and Dinkarpant are with their forces at Devruk, and I have sent them three thousand men to Keddim, where they with the fleet wait for me. Our sole business being to attack those places, I repeat my request that the attack may be begun on Sunday, as all preparations are made for that day. If I should be in want of any necessaries from Bombay, pray let the people I send for them be supplied, and the amount shall be discharged agreeably to your order."

Bombay Castle, 12th April 1755.

At a Committee, present:

The Hon'ble Richard Bourchier, Esq., President.

Sir James Foulis, Bart.	Thomas Byfeld.
William Andrew Price.	John Spencer.

Samuel Hough.

Read and approved our last consultation of the 19th ultimo.

Sir James Foulis, Bart., Major, being returned from Madras, now takes his seat as a member of the Committee.

Read a letter from Commodore James, as entered hereafter, dated 7th instant, off Suvarndurg, advising that he had got possession of it and other forts and complaining of the behaviour of the Maráthás, which being taken into consideration. It is observed the season grows late, and as we can have no dependence on their assistance, Náropant's conduct in particular must be represented to his master; and the Commodore directed not to attack any more forts but only keep

the sea to countenance them for the present and return to Bombay on the 20th of the month. Commodore James' behaviour on this occasion is unanimously approved of.

Adjourned.

DANIEL DRAPER,
Secretary.

R. BOURCHIER.
JAMES FOULIS.
T. BYFELD.
J. SPENCER.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

Letter from Commodore JAMES *to the* PRESIDENT *and* COUNCIL.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—I have hitherto had so little satisfaction in favour of our expedition to trouble you with, that I resolved to defer writing till I could congratulate you on the success of some of our attempts which have been but little to the purpose till now.

The day after sailing from Bombay we saw off Rájápur seven sail of A'ngria's grabs and eleven gallivats, and chased them to the southward without being able to come up. Two days after the Marátha fleet came out of Chaul and joined us, in all seven grabs, a batella, and sixty gallivats, with whom we proceeded to Camora Bay, where they all landed and trifled away about thirty hours (this is a tolerable good place, of which I have a draft). Then we proceeded to another small bay called Shrivardhan, not so good nor so large as the other, where they repeated the same delay and stayed two days, during which time we had several accounts, that the grabs and gallivats we chased before were at Suvarndurg with many others, upon which I proposed to go to the southward with two or three of their best sailing grabs and some gallivats in order to intercept them, and that the scheme might the better succeed, to go down in the offing to prevent being discovered, being apprehensive, they would, upon sight of us, endeavour to get off. To this they objected, and could by no means be prevailed upon to agree to our separating from them on any account, assuring me that Tuláji's Admiral had sent them word, that they had hauled their vessels close in under their guns, and taken out all the sepoys to defend the garrisons. That it was now the right time to come and that there was not the least fear of their attempting to get out of port. All this was a notorious falsehood, and the consequence proved, as I feared, for at the break of day on the 29th ultimo when we were right off the place in five fathom water they slipt their balls with great precipitation and ran out the gallivats, towing them till 11 o'clock, while it was little wind, which of course made them gain of us. We continued to chase them till 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when we were as low as Jaigad, and till the last hour not without hopes of getting up, being myself many times within less than random shot. The few Marátha grabs and gallivats who proceeded with us behaved indeed extremely ill, for notwithstanding they went better the preceding days than the " Protector ", when we left off the chase there was not one of the fleet but was hull down astern. To do A'ngria's people justice it must be said, I never saw fellows exert themselves more nor show greater industry in spreading sails on their flag-staff, ensign-staffs, from the feet of their topsails to the lower yards, steering sails both sides, quilts, turbans, &c., and throwing out every thing to lighten their vessels.

As I knew Rámájipant would be uneasy at my absence, I was induced to chase them so long only from the hopes of getting up, and in order to join the Maráthás as soon as possible, I made the best of my way alone, and arrived at Suvarndurg the next day, but none of the fleet till the day after. Here I found Rámájipant had landed a few men out of the vessels and one

4-pounder and began to attack them, as he called it, but in my opinion only encouraged them to laugh at him, being at a very great distance. Next morning we sounded all round the fort, during which performance they fired pretty quick from their works, but without success, and found the water deep enough for the vessels to bombard, and the "Protector" within point blank shot of the outer fort. Whereupon we hauled in and on the second began to bombard and cannonade the two outer bastions. By 8 o'clock we had thrown above 300 shells and fired from the "Protector" 150 shot, many of which with success. All the Maráthá grabs and gallivats lying out in five fathom in a most shameful manner looking at us, and though I requested them several times and sent officers on board, would not come in nor pay any regard to it. This, and their behaviour before, gave me so little reason to expect any thing from them, that I was obliged to leave the "Swallow" without, to secure the pass to the southward. In the night having a large swell and the direction of the shells and shot becoming uncertain, we left off and hauled further out: after which Rámájipant came on board with a deserter from the fort we had cannonaded, and informed me we had killed the Governor and eight people in it, that the shells and shot had done considerable damages, burnt several houses, and that there were not above 300 sepoys in it. I then proposed to Rámájipant to let me have 800 or 1,000 of his people in a number of gallivats, to land under cover of our fire, with hand grenades to clear the way and enter their fort by storm as I found their walls too thick and solid to beat down, but could not prevail on him. In short—poor man—he has no authority or dominion over his people, nor does he know whom to trust or when to sleep in safety; and it is very plain to me that the other gentleman's jealousy would rather induce him to throw impediments in his way than assist in any undertaking. It seems the marine is entirely under his direction, and yet so little did he make them do that I am convinced the whole of them did not fire 50 shot, and those from a greater depth of water than the "Protector" lay in, and even then he himself was on shore out of the way. And as I found this the case, I thought it would leave too much room for censure and reflection having engaged so far in it, to quit the place without exerting all our endeavours to reduce it to obedience. Therefore the 3rd in the morning, after having sounded round, and well surveying the situation of the forts, for there are four of them, found that joining to the main was, from its being built on a hill with its declivity to the northward, much the openest for bombarding, and what was still more lucky, water enough for the vessels to go far enough in to throw the shells well home and fire upon all four at once. At nine o'clock, upon flowing of the tide, we weighed and ran the bomb vessels and launched into 3 fathoms of water, the "Protector" into $3\frac{1}{4}$, when the former were within quarter of a mile of the easternmost fort and we within half musket shot of the outer one. At first in passing we had by means of a spring on the cable brought the ship's broad side to bear; they fired pretty briskly upon us from the inner and outer forts. But by returning the compliment of the former with the lower deck, of the latter with the upper deck guns, two or three at a time, and by that means keeping an incessant fire upon them, they were very silent in three hours, and afterwards fired a shot only now and then. At noon, having knocked down great part of the parapet of the outer fort and almost ruined the north-east bastion, and at the same time a successful shell taking place and setting fire to a house which we prevented their extinguishing the flames of (though they were very brisk in unlaying the cajans) by constantly pouring in grape, &c., upon them, it got to such a head that in an hour one of their magazines blew up, which effectually communicated itself all over the fort, and a general conflagration ensuing, put them in great consternation. Men, women and children were running out on the other side and embarking in the boats that were hauled up under the walls, but as I had still continued the "Swallow" without, they could not possibly escape her, and she picked up six of them containing about 400 men, and the Marátha gallivats two more. We then turned all our fire upon the inner fort, and steered the ship into a foot more water than she drew, and

notwithstanding many shots and shells took place, they held out till the sea wind setting in fresh obliged us to let go the springs which afford them great respite, for then the bomb vessels could only fire when they took a sheer, and we could only use our stern chase guns. I then sent to Rámájipant, who had faithfully promised to make an attack by land (if we had any success in the day) that night, to perform his agreement, and an officer to make us proper signals for our guidance. When the morning returned, the Maráthás informed, that they could not possibly attempt it, as the fire from the outer fort illuminated the whole bounds so much, that nothing could stir without being discovered. About 11 o'clock the grand magazine of the outer fort blew up, which gave a great shock, and at daylight it appeared that everybody had deserted it. But the colours still flying on the others we renewed our fire upon them for about an hour, when they sent out a flag of truce to Rámájipant, who sent me off word, and we ceased firing. What follows is an account since my landing, when I found that they had by some mismanagement or other suffered the Governor of Fort Gova, before called the inner one, to make his escape in a boat with some chosen sepoys to Suvarndurg Fort, mentioned before to have been evacuated and called the outer one, which is excessively strong, and being well provided with water and provisions for the small number of people he had with him, was resolved to maintain it some time in hope of receiving succour from Dábul. Upon this we landed some coehorns from the vessels and pointed all the cannons of the other forts upon it, and after spending all yesterday in sending letters and messages backwards and forwards, by which it was easy to judge he only wanted to gain time, we this morning began to fire upon him from the ships and shore, and landed a number of people under the cover of it opposite to the gate of the fort, which is regularly defended by bastions and walls, in the lowest place at least 50 feet high, and the parapet near three feet of solid rock. At half past 12 they cut and broke open the wicket of the door, and entered without much opposition, it having not above 120 or 130 men within, which completed the victory; and as I am impatient to communicate this news to you, time will not admit of my being so particular as I could wish, yet cannot help observing that the place is by far much stronger than I could have believed, being partly out of solid rocks, and built with large red stones of near 4 feet square, so hard that many of our shot split by striking against them, but not regular with proper lines of defence. In Fort Gova they have about 44 guns, the two others, viz., Fategad and Kanakdurg, join to it by a kind of peninsula, and in them they have 20 guns each; in Suvarndurg about 50, much larger than any of the others. This is built on an island with 2½ fathoms water all round. The country all about seems to be very good and fertile, and they tell me A'ngria's customs yearly amounted to two lákhs of rupees. Indeed it is amazingly populous and abounds with a vast number of women and children. One poor old man came begging to us for mercy in Suvarndurg, and said 8 people were killed in the second day out of his family. In short, there is nothing but ruin and devastation there, all the houses and warehouses being burnt within the fort. One 9-pounder broke to pieces by a shot, and all the bázár the other side burnt down, so that the number of poor wretches running about begging mercy renders it very shocking. Rámájipant seems vastly lenitive and humane and promises everybody his protection.

We have in this action expended in the ship and launch 40 barrels of powder and 790 shots of all sorts, but shall get a great number of the latter again, several baskets having already been picked up.

Rámájipant says he has sent some land forces to take Bánkot and Himatgar, which is to be delivered to the Company, and intends going against Dábul and Jaygad in a day or two; and as we have expended a great number of our shells already, I shall be obliged to you to order some more by the first opportunity.

Everybody is well in the squadron, which is all I have to trouble you with at present, only my being most respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most obliged humble servant,
"*Protector*", *off Suvarndurg, 7th April 1775.* WILLIAM JAMES.

P.S.—I was obliged to keep this pattemár longer than I intended for Rámájipant.

Received by a pattemár boat a letter from Rámájipant, dated the 7th April, as per ensuing translate:—

"After compliments.

On our weighing anchor from Chaul we immediately proceeded to Serviam, whence, after having made the necessary inquiries, we sailed to Harney (Harnai), where we arrived the 27th ultimo and perceived A'ngria's fleet and some of our gallivats pursued as far as Jaygad, but not being able to overtake them, on the third day returned. On my arrival here I landed my forces, cut off their supplies of water, and raised the necessary batteries. The enemy once sallied on my people, but were repulsed with loss, and by keeping a continual firing of both shells and shot from your Honor's fleet and our land batteries very much destroyed Suvarndurg and its garrison, blew up their powder magazines, and burnt their storehouses. I assure your Honor I cannot sufficiently commend the conduct and courage of your Commodore and the gallant behaviour of your fleet. On the 4th April we vigorously attacked and carried the forts Kanakdurg, Fategad and Gova, and understanding Suvarndurg to be in a very weak condition, I by land attacked and made myself master of its forts. I entirely attribute the extraordinary success of this enterprise to the assistance afforded me by your Honor and have communicated my sentiments on this head to Nána. As all our business is not yet finished, I must request your Honor's further help and beg you will reinforce your fleet that we may quickly be masters of the enemy's remaining fortifications."

Signed and despatched per pattemár the following letter to Commodore James:—

"Sir,—Your letter of the 9th instant came to hand yesterday. We congratulate you on your success and approve your proceedings, but must remark that you have done more than we were under any obligations to perform, as we engaged only to prevent any succour being thrown into the forts while the Maráthás were attacking them by land, but observe they have thrown the whole burden and expense of the ammunition on us (their expected army not being arrived), for which reason you are not to run any unnecessary risk of the Hon'ble Company's vessels either in warfare or in regard to the monsoon, and you must inform Rámájipant that you have our positive orders to make the best of your way to Bombay on the 20th instant. The season being far elapsed it is not possible for us to send you a supply of Bombay shells, as we have no proper vessels to carry them, and they are not to be trusted in a pattemár boat.

By what Rámájipant writes the President we find he proposes going to the southward and attacking Dábul, &c. This will be carrying you so much the further from home and making it the more difficult to bring back the Prahm "Triumph".

Notwithstanding its being our positive order that you return to Bombay the 20th instant, yet should this find you engaged in the attack of any place where your stay for 48 hours may be of any essential service, and by your departure the Maráthás may suffer any loss or disgrace, we

permit you to stay two or three days longer, but on no account would have you proceed any further to the southward, as it will be difficult and troublesome bringing the prahm back so late in the season. We would have you recommend to Rámájipant to take proper care in securing his late conquest before he engages in any further attempts.

We are,
Your loving friends,
RICHARD BOURCHIER.
JAMES FOULIS.
THOMAS BYFELD.
WILLIAM ANDREW PRICE.
JOHN SPENCER.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

Bombay Castle, 12th April 1775."

The President received a letter from Rámájipant, dated the 13th, translate whereof is as follows:—

"After compliments.

We have by your Honor's assistance taken Suvarndurg and six other forts and should have immediately proceeded on the attack of Rasalgad had not Nána written me to attempt first Anjanvel and the forts within the jurisdiction of Dábul, and for that purpose to apply to your Honor for aid. Dámodar Pant and Samsher Bahádur arrived in these parts to my assistance the 12th instant and have brought me a reinforcement of 100 horse. I therefore now send Rámji Shivji to your Honor and desire you will assist me with a fleet in order to destroy the enemy. For further particulars I refer you to Rámji Shivji. I hope you will take my desire into consideration and despatch the vessels immediately. Our late success is entirely owing to your Honor. Refuse not therefore now to befriend us. Myself and Commodore have sailed towards Dábul in expectation of succour from you. It may be alleged the season grows too late for any further enterprise, but as I have Nána's positive orders for this expedition and cannot hope without your aid to perform anything to his satisfaction, I entreat you will comply with my request. Tuláji A'ngria some time ago sent Nána Wassudev and Shivji Mohite to desire that a peace may be settled between us and him and has written to Nána on the same account. I deemed it necessary to give your Honor this information."

Arrived a messenger with three letters from Nána to the President, under the 18th and 19th instant, translates of which are hereunder:—

"After compliments.

I have learnt with particular satisfaction that the fleet your Honor sent to the assistance of Rámájipant have by their courage and conduct reduced Suvarndurg, the suddenness of which transcends my expectations; and I allow myself incapable of sufficiently commending their merit. Your Honor has now verified the promises often made me by letters. I make no doubt of your further interesting yourself in my behalf and make my concerns your own, in confidence of which I request your Honor will order your fleet to attack the rest of Tuláji's fortifications in conjunction with Rámájipant and your vessels lately arrived from Tellicherry to their assistance. The continuation of our friendship will always be agreeable to me. For further particulars I refer you to Shivji Nánáji."

" After compliments.

I just now received a letter from Samsher Bahádur, the material purport of which is that he is arrived at Ratnágiri, raised batteries there, and had an engagement with the enemy, and that he has a good prospect of success, but stands in need of assistance. I therefore reiterate my request that your Honor will, without fail, send your fleet there. I have written Rámájipant about it, and I likewise request the men-of-war or vessels lately imported from Tellicherry may be sent with them, as it will much expedite the surrender of the place. Nánáji, the bearer, will inform you of what is further necessary."

" After compliments.

I have received your Honor's friendly letter and am fully convinced of the bravery of your people, which they have sufficiently manifested in taking Suvarndurg, and I must confess they are soldiers. You have likewise proved to me the sincerity of your nation who, I am well assured, always exactly perform their promises, so that I have nothing now to pray for but a continuance of our amity, for which my endeavours shall never be wanting. I observe what you have alleged to Rámájipant in regard to the season being now too far advanced for ships to keep the sea, for which reason you have ordered your fleet to come away, likewise your promise to assist him again at the opening of the fair season. I cannot question your Honor's superior skill in maritime affairs, for which reason your opinion should be preferred; but as Samsher Bahádur is gone in person to Ratnágiri and can do nothing without your aid, I make no doubt your Honor will consider what shame will attend so great an officer being worsted and returning unsuccessful, to prevent which I earnestly request you will order your vessels to destroy Ratnágiri and reinforce your present fleet with the ships lately arrived in port that this affair may be sooner completed. His other forts may be attacked after the rains. I observe by your Honor's letter and Rámáji's information that my vessels did not behave in a becoming manner. I have severely reprimanded my officers, and they will take care to discharge their duty in future, and if they fail, they shall meet with suitable punishment. All my fleet shall be under your command, and the officers directed to obey your orders. I only request that you will attack Ratnágiri to curb the insolency of our foes."

Arrived a boat with a letter to the President from Rámájipant, dated the 20th instant as per ensuing translate:—

" After compliments.

I cannot sufficiently in a letter praise Commodore James' good conduct in taking Suvarndurg, which I have represented in its proper light to Nána, who informs me he has sent you a *sirpáv* (dress of honor), and one for the Commodore, which is not yet arrived. I desired him to wait a day or two for this present, but he told me he had received repeated orders from you and could not stay. I have written three or four letters and sent Rámji Shivji to inform you that Nána intends to attack Gheria this season, notwithstanding which the Commodore has your orders to return, which greatly troubles me. It was by your advice and encouragement that I first went against Tuláji and through your means have met with success. Now is the proper time to take other places, yet your Honor has withdrawn your fleet. However as Dinkarpant is with his forces set down before Ratnágiri and I have received Nána's orders to proceed with your vessels to his assistance, I desire, your Honor, you will favour me with the Commodore's assistance on receipt of this letter, that we may destroy A'ngria, who has been your enemy forty years. This will redound much to your Honor's credit and be very grateful to Nána. Our late success has

much dis-spirited and disturbed Tuláji. He hardly knows what he is about. This therefore is the proper time to attack Gheria. He has hauled his vessels ashore. So good an opportunity should not be lost; but as I am well satisfied of your Honor's prudence, I will not enlarge on this head, but await your assistance. I am well assured we shall take Gheria."

The President received a letter from Nána, dated 19th instant, translate of which is as follows:—

"After compliments.

I have received your Honor's letter. I confess the bravery of your fleet in taking Suvarndurg and how ill mine behaved on the same occasion, and that the season is too far advanced to do much more. Your vessels are certainly powerful and your people much better understand marine business than mine. I have already met with success through your means and shall reap future advantages from the same. I assure your Honor my people shall be punished as they deserve. It is just that we should not attempt things at improper seasons, but some officers belonging to me of rank and distinction are engaged to reduce Ratnágiri. I therefore must request you will assist them, for should they fail, it would afford the enemy great matter of triumph. In former letters I made this request to you and now earnestly repeat the same."

Bombay Castle, 29th April 1755.

At a Committee, present:

The Hon'ble RICHARD BOURCHIER, Esq., President.

SIR JAMES FOULIS.	THOMAS BYFELD.
WILLIAM ANDREW PRICE.	JOHN SPENCER.

SAMUEL HOUGH.

Read and approved our last consultation of the 12th instant.

Commodore William James arriving on the 27th and having delivered in a journal of his proceedings as entered hereafter, it is now read and approved.

The President likewise lays before the Board a foul draft of a letter to Rámájipant, as entered hereafter, which is also now read and approved, in answer to one received from him, dated 20th instant, setting forth that Dinkarpant is with a large force attacking Ratnágiri, till the 15th of next month,—Resolved that the fleet be despatched accordingly with orders to Commodore James to lay off that port to prevent the enemy from throwing in succour, more especially as the Marátha fleet is still to the southward, and probably A'ngria may, on the absence of our fleet, be tempted to attack them, and we apprehend would not meet with much opposition, but on no account to proceed to any other place to southward; and although as above we think it necessary to limit the Commodore's stay to the 15th of next month, yet in case the weather should appear favourable and the Maráthás have a prospect of success, he may continue there 48 hours more, but no longer, and then make the best of his way to Bombay. Nevertheless should there be any appearance of bad weather not to show any regard to the above limitation, but proceed immediately to Bombay, which must be left to his discretion.

As the prahm is not in a condition to proceed in company at this season of the year,—Resolved that Commodore James have orders, in case of meeting with the "Guardian", to take her under his command.

As by our agreement with the Maráthás, Bánkot and Himatgar are to be delivered to the Hon'ble Company, but as the lateness of the season will not admit of our taking possession of

them, it is resolved that the engineer be despatched thither to take a view of the fortifications and make a calculate of what number of men may be necessary for their defence.

Adjourned.

DANIEL DRAPER,
Secretary.

R. BOURCHIER.
JAMES FOULIS.
T. BYFELD.
J. SPENCER.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

An Abstract of the Proceedings on board the "Protector" from the 22nd March to the 27th April 1755.

Saturday, March 22nd, 1755 :—At 4 P.M. made the signal for sailing; at 5 weighed in company of the "Viper", "Swallow" and the Prahm "Triumph"; at 7 anchored for the latter to come up; at 5 A.M. weighed; at 8 brought to for the Prahm "Triumph", whose mast was sprung. Sent the carpenters on board her and made sail at 10. Sent Rámáji Purbhu into Chaul with advice to the Marátha fleet of our arrival.

Sunday, 23rd, 1755.—At ½ past 3 P.M. saw A'ngria's fleet, in all 7 top sail vessels and six gallivats; made the signal and gave chase, but could not come up. At 5 made the signal to leave off chase and stood to the northward; at 8 came to in 6 ¼ fathom; at 10 A.M. weighed, hazy weather, the prahm a long way to leeward; punished James Larkins with 12 lashes for beating a lascar without reason.

Monday, 24th, 1755.—At 7 P.M. came to; at ½ past 5 A.M. the launch carried away her foremast, fixed another and sent her in shore with a Lieutenant to hurry out the Marátha fleet, who were still lying at anchor in Chaul harbour; at 6 weighed, wind S. by W.

Tuesday, 25th, 1755.—At 1 P.M. lay to for the Marátha fleet and at 2 they joined us, consisting of 7 grabs, about 40 gallivats, and two batellás. Made sail to the southward. At 6 came to in Comoray Bay. Sent the boats to sound round; found it clear, good holding ground, and the point may be brought N.-W. in ¼ less 5 fathom, and small vessels may bring it West in 1 fathom.

Wednesday, 26th, 1755.—At 6 A.M. made the signal and weighed in company as before and at 12 anchored in Sherverdan (Shrivardhan) Bay much less than the other. The north point of that may be brought to W.N.W. in 3 fathom, and small vessels may lay sheltered from the westerly winds.

Thursday, 27th, 1755.—Nothing remarkable, winds northerly, sounded round the Bay, &c.

Friday, 28th, 1755.—Fair weather, hove the anchor up, saw it clear, and let it go again.

Saturday, 29th, 1755.—At 6 P.M. made the signal and weighed, but falling calm came to again. At 10 weighed, 6 grabs and 12 gallivats, and made sail towards Suvarndurg in hope of intercepting Tuláji's grabs that we had an account were in there. At 5 A.M. saw seven sail of his grabs and 10 gallivats coming out of Suvarndurg; made the general signal to chase to the south-east; repeated it several times till observed. At 10 A.M. being little wind set in we came up with them fast. They then set a number of small sails, steering sails, &c., and we observed them heaving out all their ballast. All the fleet a long way astern and we continued to go from them. Were within random shot of some of the grabs.

Sunday, 30th, 1755.—Still chasing to the southward. Gained by little on the grabs and all the fleet dropt astern of us prodigiously. Made signal to leave off chase. Hauled our wind to the northward at 6 P.M. Came to; made signals for all commanders at 10. Made the signal

and weighed with the flood. Made the "Swallow's" signal to take the prahm in tow at noon. No land in sight, 32 fathom water, latitude observed 17·48 north.

Monday, 31st, 1755.—Pleasant gales and fair weather. At 8 P.M. came to off Suvarndurg, distant from shore 3 miles. Found here 6 of the Marátha grabs and a number of gallivats.

Tuesday, April 1st, 1755.—Weighed and run further in; anchored in ¼ less five fathom, off shore one mile. In the evening sent the "Viper" and the Prahm "Triumph" within us with orders to begin throwing off shells, but observing they fell short, left off till morning.

Wednesday, 2nd April 1755.—Moderate winds and fair weather, weighed and run further in with the "Viper" and "Triumph". Came to in 4 fathom, being then about half flood. At 8 we began to cannonade and they to bombard the fort. They firing pretty briskly at us from their bastions, but without doing any damage. In the night having a large swell and the success of shells or shot uncertain left off, and by a deserter had an account that the Governor and eight people were killed, but that the side of the fort on which we lay being nothing but large rocks it would be impossible to make a breach in it. At low water had but 3½ fathom, warped further off.

Thursday, 3rd April, 1755.—Hazy weather; saw the Grab "Bombay", three ships and one snow,[1] in the offing standing to the northward. At 9 weighed and ran in within half musket shot of Suvarndurg fort in 3¼ fathom. Made the general signal to engage. Got a spring on each side of the cable, and began to fire the lower deck guns at fort Gova and the upper deck at Suvarndurg. By 11 o'clock we had pretty well silenced both, from which time till night they only fired a gun now and then. Sent officers and people to make the Marátha grabs come into a proper line for engaging, but could not prevail on them to come nearer than within random shot of the forts. The "Viper", "Triumph" and "Launch" threw a great number of shells, one of which set fire to the magazine in the large fort, which blew up a quantity of powder and a general conflagration ensued. Continued engaging till night; then left off, having fired 640 shot. The north-west winds blowing fresh with a large swell, and we having only a foot more water than the ship drew, got down top gallant yards and spirit sail yard, &c., and hove further off.

Friday, 4th April, 1755.—At day-light veered in again and renewed our firing as did the ketches and launches with their mortars and coehorns with such success as almost ruined the north-east bastion of the large fort, knocking down the parapet and great part of the wall, &c. At 10 three of the forts struck their colours, on which sent Lieutenant Young on shore with English flags, which were hoisted, manned ship and gave three cheers. In the afternoon weighed and run off into 5½ fathom, where anchored.

Saturday, 5th, 1755.—At 10 in the morning I went ashore by Rámáji pant's desire as he would not enter the forts before me. We found them greatly injured by the shot and shell and a number of houses burnt.

Sunday, 6th, 1755.—In the morning fired some shot, &c., at Suvarndurg Fort, which obstinately held out till noon, when they struck their colours and we hoisted English.

Monday, 7th April 1755.—In the morning sent some gang casks for water by the Marátha fishing boats, hove into a half cable; employed making nippers; loosed sails to dry.

Tuesday, 8th April 1755.—Received on board some water which stowed in the ground tier.

Wednesday, 9th April 1755.—Nothing remarkable; received on board water.

Thursday, 10th, 1755.—Receiving of water; the people making mats.

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[1] Snow—a large brig, with a try-sail-mast abaft the main-mast for the gaff to the fore-and-aft main-sail to work on.

Friday, 11th April, 1755.—Weighed the small lower anchor and anchored with the stream in the same place. Here the tide flows near 2 fathom up and down and on full, and change 10 o'clock, latitude 18·0 north at 17·56 on a medium.

Saturday, 12th April 1755.—Employed fleeting ship on both sides and scrubbing the bends; saw a shibar in the offing going to the northward and sent an officer in the pinnace on board her, but she not observing the boat fired a shot at her to bring her to. Found her to be a Marátha boat from Rájápur bound to Chaul, who had seen nothing in her way.

Sunday, 13th April 1755.—Nothing remarkable; saw the anchor clear, and let it go again.

Monday, 14th April 1755.—At 7 this morning Rámájipant came on board as likewise the Governor of Chaul. Saluted him with 5 guns and at their going away with 7 guns. At noon weighed with the wind as W by W. Made sail towards Dábul in company with the "Swallow", "Viper" and prahm. The Marátha fleet at Suvarndurg, but promised to follow us immediately.

Tuesday, 15th April 1755.—At 5 P.M. came to, off Dábul in 7 fathom. Tide flows here much the same as at Suvarndurg. This is a large fort and appears strong, as also another large black fort upon the hill with a ditch round it, besides several little towers near the water side. It lays in 17·40 north. We were much nearer than point blank shot, but they did not fire at us.

Wednesday, 16th April, 1755.—At 4 P.M. the pattemár boat arrived from Bombay with orders. Made the signal to call in all cruisers from the north-east, having stationed the "Swallow" and "Viper" there to stop up the harbour. At 9 weighed and at 1 A.M. came to in 8 fathom. At 5 A.M. made the signal and weighed in company of the "Swallow", "Viper" and prahm.

Thursday, 17th April 1755.—At 2 P.M. came to off Suvarndurg with the stream anchor in 5 fathom; sent the launch on shore for water. Found here all the Marátha fleet who had not weighed from hence.

Friday, 18th April 1755.—Fresh gales of wind at north-west; in the evening got down top gallant yards and veered away a whole cable.

Saturday, 19th April 1755.—Moderate winds for the first part; hove into a ½ cable; the launch returned with water; sent her on shore again for water. Shifted the top gallant masts and got up short ones in the evening. Blowing fresh, veered out the long service.

Sunday, 20th April 1755.—Got up the top gallant yards and made the signal for sailing. At 12 at night weighed and stood to the northward.

Monday, 21st April 1755.—At 6 A.M. a boat came on board from Rámájipant to beg to stay a day or two longer till he had settled the garrison properly. Bore and stood to the southward. Made the "Swallow" and prahm signals to anchor as they would be so much in our way. At 8 came to off Suvarndurg. Sent the launch on shore for water and an officer to Rámájipant.

Tuesday, 22nd April 1755.—Rámájipant sent me a memorial and an earnest request to go to the southward to assist Samsher Bahádur in his attack upon Ratnágiri, as also for a security to the Marátha fleet who were gone there, which being inconsistent with my orders, I could not comply with. At noon he came on board. Saluted him with 9 guns. He gave to each soldier and gunner Rs. 5 and to each lascar and topass one rupee; besides turbans, silver bangles, &c., to some particular persons, and left an order for Rs. 1,500 to be distributed among the ship's company in proportion to their stations; gold bangles to the Commanders of the other vessels and Rs. 2,000 to be divided among their crews. At his going away manned ship

and saluted him with the like number of guns. At $\frac{1}{4}$ past 4 P.M. weighed. At 8 the flood being done came to in $5\frac{1}{4}$ fathom. At 12 weighed with a light land breeze.

Wednesday, 23rd April 1755.—At 3 P.M. came up with the "Swallow", who cast off the prahm. Then she bore down and took her in tow. At 11 P.M. came to with the stream anchor.

Thursday, 24th April, 1755.—At 4 A.M. weighed and at half past 10 came to with the stream anchor in 7 fathom, off shore 4 or 5 leagues. At 2 made the signal and weighed, and at 9 came to with the stream anchor in 6 fathom, off shore 3 or 4 miles.

Friday, 25th April 1755.—At 3 P.M. made the signal and weighed. John Smitter, soldier, departed this life at 2 P.M. The Prahm "Triumph" carried away her main topmast. At 12 came to with stream anchor in 11 fathom water.

Saturday, 26th April 1755.—At 6 A.M. weighed and at 3 P.M. came to with stream anchor in 6 fathom, off shore 4 or 5 miles. At 6 made the signal and weighed. At 11 came to off Candery in $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathom.

Sunday, 27th April 1755.—At 5 A.M. made the signal and weighed. At 12 came to in Bombay in 7 fathom water with the former vessels in company.

WILLIAM JAMES.

The President's letter to Rámáji Pant was as follows:—

"After compliments.

Commodore James with our vessels arrived yesterday and by him I received your friendly letter. I am glad to find our people behaved so much to your satisfaction, which I find you have represented in its proper light to the Nána, who has sent me a *sirpáv*, for which I am obliged, and desires that I will order our squadron to go and assist Samsher Bahádur in taking of Ratnágiri, and now you write me that Nána intends to attack Gheria this season. The way for men to continue friends is rightly to understand each other. In your letter you say that by my advice and encouragement you went against Tuláji. Surely you have forgot that when you came to desire me to engage in this affair that I told you it was too late for such an attempt and that I had not a proper force for such an undertaking and would have had you desisted till the monsoon was over. Upon which you showed me Nána's orders to you to go with your own land and sea forces to attack Tuláji, whether we joined our marine with you or not. I well knew the inequality of your marine force with Tuláji's, and that he would destroy all your vessels in a very short time, for which I consented to send what marine force I had, and agreed we were only to prevent Tuláji from flinging any succour into any part you should attack with your army, and you cannot but remember your own answer to me, when I told you how far the season was elapsed and that I dared not permit our vessels to be at sea. You told me that you only wanted to light the fire before the monsoon and that when the monsoon was over we might finish our work. After all this how greatly must I be surprised to find that the first place attacked was Suvarndurg, the second strongest place Tuláji has, and that instead of a Marátha army Rámájipant had only a few sepoys out of the vessels, and that Náropant instead of obeying any orders from Rámájipant or our Commodore, as I was promised he should, was on shore with 300 sepoys in a garden out of harm's way, and would not obey anybody's orders. Can any man deny one word of this and is it not all true? If it is, how can I act at present?

You talk of taking Ratnágiri and Vijaydurg (Gheria) as if it were the month of October instead of the last of April. I tell you plainly that these places are not to be taken

at this season of the year (especially Gheria), and I am greatly surprised that you should run such a risk of your fleet as to send them to Ratnágiri at this time; for should it be even as you say that Tuláji is in a panic and all his vessels hauled up, when he knows that our vessels have returned to Bombay, may he not put his vessels in the water and come and attack yours, when I greatly fear you would find him too hard for them? In my opinion it would be prudent to secure what you have got, and before the rains are over we can form a plan of operations which if your people will observe with more punctuality may be successful. But then we must not have our fleets go to one part while our land army goes to another, and I should think it is well worth your attention as so great advantages will accrue to Nána as the revenues of all the conquered countries, except the single port and its dependencies of Bánkot, which is all that we have desired and you have engaged to deliver to us. And one thing I must insist on, which is, that at the delivery of Bánkot the limits be ascertained to prevent a dispute in future.

I believe as you do and make no doubt but we can take Gheria and every place belonging to Tuláji, but it must be after the rains and not before. I shall be much convinced should Samsher Bahádur be obliged to return without taking Ratnágiri, but he cannot blame me as I knew nothing of his intention of going there until Nána advised me he was gone there.

Notwithstanding all that I have already said I find myself under such apprehension for the safety of your fleet, and to show how ready I am to gratify Nána, Samsher Bahádur, and yourself that I have permitted the Commodore to return. But one of the bomb vessels having lost her topmast and sprung her mast I cannot send her, but have permitted the Commodore to take the 'Guardian' of 29-pounder guns if he meets her under his command. But as I have done a thing contrary to my own judgment in sending those ships at this season, I could not permit them to stay longer than fifteen days, nor to join in attacking any place but Ratnágiri."

Signed and delivered the following instructions to Commodore William James:—

"Sir,—The Nána, his brother Samsher Bahádur and Rámájipant being all extremely pressing to have you to assist them in the taking of Ratnágiri, you are hereby ordered to make the best of your way, taking the 'Swallow' and 'Viper' under your command, and in case you meet the 'Guardian' you are to take her also under your command. As the fair season is so near elapsed we would not have you stay at Ratnágiri longer than the 15th May, unless you should have very fair weather, and you think that by staying 48 hours the Márathás may thereby be enabled to make any considerable advantage. But longer you are not to stay on any account, and should the weather permit you, to put to sea directly, and not run any risk of the ships.

As the swell at this season may make the success of your bombs very precarious, we permit you to land the mortars and their apparatus with the proper officer if you think the Marátha army is sufficient to protect them. We have to only add our best wishes for your success and are,

Your loving friends,
RICHARD BOURCHIER.
JAMES FOULIS.
THOMAS BYFELD.
WILLIAM ANDREW PRICE.
JOHN SPENCER.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

Bombay Castle, 29th April 1755."

EXPEDITION AGAINST GHERIA.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 1st December 1755.

At a Committee, present:

The Hon'ble RICHARD BOURCHIER, Esq., President and Governor.

Lieutenant-Colonel ROBERT CLIVE.	CHARLES CROMMELIN.
Sir JAMES FOULIS, Bart.	JOHN SHENCER.

SAMUEL HOUGH.

Read and approved our consultation of the 7th ultimo.

It not being in our power to proceed any further in regard to the expedition against the French and their allies in Deccan and Arcot, the President acquaints the Committee that he has conferred with Admiral Watson concerning the design against Gheria, which the Committee appointed last season per "Hardwicke" were instructed to undertake in conjunction with the Maráthás, and he has learnt from the Admiral that if he assists therein with His Majesty's squadron, a clause in his instructions obliges him to stipulate that our hon'ble masters shall make good what ammunition may be expended and that the men-of-war shall be re-fitted in case of damage, which as such a force shall be a means of our reducing it with greater ease, he gave his word of honour to the Admiral those conditions should be complied with, and which the Committee unanimously approve and confirm.

R. BOURCHIER.
CHAS. CROMMELIN.
JAMES FOULIS.
J. SPENCER.
SAM. HOUGH.

Bombay Castle, Tuesday, 9th December 1755.

At a Committee, present:

The Hon'ble RICHARD BOURCHIER, Esq., President and Governor.

Lieutenant-Colonel ROBERT CLIVE.	CHARLES CROMMELIN.
Sir JAMES FOULIS, Bart.	JOHN SPENCER.

SAMUEL HOUGH.

Read and approved our last consultation of the 1st instant.

The President acquaints the Committee that he summoned this meeting in order to settle the command of the troops to be sent on the expedition against Gheria, as he has remarked that Colonel Clive is one appointed by the hon'ble the Secret Committee to command in case of our proceeding on their plan against the French and their allies in the Deccan and Arcot, and that in the supplement to their commands under the 26th March last, which is now read, they are pleased to mention that they think it improper that Sir James Foulis should be absent from the island during the unsettled state of affairs with the French in Europe; and Colonel Clive making a tender of his service, which he says he thinks is but his duty on this occasion as well as any other, from the Hon'ble Company's having obtained him a superior commission to Sir James Foulis; and he on the other hand urging his opinion that the above-mentioned clause was designed to prevent his absence to so great a distance as the other coast only, and that the command pro-

perly belongs to him as eldest officer on this establishment, and that giving Colonel Clive the preference, who, he thinks, was ordered here purposely on account of the other expedition, will very much injure his reputation, to decide which debate the President asks the opinion of the several members whether from the purport of the Secret Committee's commands Sir James Foulis should be absent from the island at this juncture, who unanimously agree that he ought not, and therefore the Committee accept Colonel Clive's offer, but Sir James Foulis declares his dissent, desiring to deliver in a letter with his reasons for it, which is agreed to.

R. BOURCHIER.
CHAS. CROMMELIN.
JAMES FOULIS.
J. SPENCER.
SAM. HOUGH.

Bombay Castle, 15th January 1756.

At a Committee, present:

The Hon'ble RICHARD BOURCHIER, Esq., President and Governor,

Admiral CHARLES WATSON.	Admiral GEORGE POCOCK.
Lieutenant-Colonel ROBERT CLIVE.	CHARLES CROMMELIN.
Sir JAMES FOULIS, Bart.	SAMUEL HOUGH.

JOHN SPENCER (indisposed).

Read and approved our last consultation of the 19th ultimo.

The President having, conformably to the Secret Committee's instructions, requested Admirals Watson and Pocock to give their advice in respect to the affairs coming under consideration, they take their seats accordingly.

He then informed the Committee that Rear-Admiral Watson in consequence of the assurances he had given him that the Hon'ble Company shall make good what ammunition may be expended, and refit His Majesty's ships in case of their sustaining any damage in attacking Gheria, agreeably to consultation of the 1st ultimo, had agreed to proceed with the squadron under his command to act in conjunction with the Maráthás; and it being the opinion of the President and Mr. Samuel Hough that there is depth enough at low water to admit of His Majesty's capital ships going sufficiently near the batteries to make a breach, and the Committee unanimously agreeing that by embarking the detachment of His Majesty's Royal Regiment of artillery, together with such of the Hon'ble Company's forces as can be spared, and the Marátha army investing the place at the same time, that the attacking of Gheria with such a force will be attended with the greatest prospect of success,—Admiral Watson now present, in obedience of His Majesty's instructions to him, dated the 2nd March 1754, agrees (for the public good and the Hon'ble Company's particular benefit) to undertake this service, and consents to proceed on the

expedition with His Majesty's squadron and the Hon'ble Company's marine force[1] as soon as they can be got ready for the sea and everything else necessary provided.

The Committee then taking into consideration the necessary measures for that purpose come to the following resolution :—

That the troops to be employed embark on His Majesty's squadron and the Hon'ble Company's vessels as may be most convenient.

Admirals Watson and Pocock, Colonel Clive and Mr. Hough are appointed a Committee for transacting all affairs relative to the Hon'ble Company, but in case they are equally divided on any point, the former to have a casting voice, and should the enemy offer to treat and his terms be accepted, the capitulation to be signed by Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive, and if the latter should not act on shore, by the Admiral alone.

Mr. Watson representing that it is usual for the artillery, all stores in general, and other effects whatsoever which are taken from any enemy to be divided among the captors according to their several ranks, the Committee are to settle this affair in the best manner they can with Rámájipant, the Marátha General Officer, as by the President and former Committee's agreement with him previous to the arrival of His Majesty's squadron it was stipulated the artillery and stores should be given up to the Maráthás, but in case the Committee are not able to prevail on him to decline it, the amount to be made good to the captors by the Hon'ble Company; and the Admiral acquainting us that he must in consequence of His Majesty's instructions to him be supplied with what men, stores and other requisites he may want for the expedition, it is unanimously agreed to.

It being necessary the following officers should be appointed to serve on the expedition, viz., a Judge Advocate, Aide-de-Camp, Commissary of the Train, an Adjutant, Quarter Master, two Conductors, also a Military Paymaster and Commissary of the Provisions, with the usual allowances, the Committee acquiesce therein.

Colonel Clive representing that the bedding allowed by the Hon'ble Company in England to three companies of His Majesty's artillery is entirely worn out, ordered that

1 *State of the Marine Force.*

Ships' Names.	Number of Seamen.	Number of Military.	Total number of Men.	Number and size of their Guns.	Number of Mortars.	Number of Coehorns.	Number of Shells for each Mortar.	Number of Shells for each Coehorn.
Ship "Protector"	160	40	200	20 12 20 4	.. Ms.	..	..	..
Ship "Revenge"	130	31	161	20 9	1 of 8	..	..	..
"Bombay" Grab	130	31	161	20 9	1 of 8	..	..	..
Ship "Guardian"	130	31	161	20 9	..	..	..	..
"Drake" Ketch	74	20	94	14 6	1 of 10	2	..	..
"Viper" do.	40	18	60	12 4	1 of 8	2	..	..
A Ketch	42	18	60	12 4	1 of 8	2	..	..
"Dispatch" Ketch	36	18	54	12 4	..	2	..	..
"Triumph" Prahm	36	18	54	12 6	1 of 10	2	..	..
"Content", Sloop	28	18	46	8 4	..	2	..	..
"Dolphin", Gallivat	32	16	48	1 3 6 2	..	2	..	..
"Shark", do.	32	16	48	1 3 6 2	..	2	..	..
"Swallow", do.	20	11	31	1 2 4 1	..	1	..	..
"Fox", do.	20	11	31	1 2 4 1	..	2	..	..
"Tyger", Schooner	20	11	31	1 2 4 1	..	1	..	..
"Phœnix", Sloop	20	11	31	1 2 4 1	..	1	..	..
"Fly", Gallivat	20	11	31	1 2 4 1	..	..	..	..
"Swift", do.	16	11	23	1 4 ¼	..	..	..	..
			1,329		6	21		

N.B.—Twenty fishing boats with sixteen oars and a swivel gun mounted in the bow of each and as many more without guns as may be thought requisite.

the Military Paymaster furnish them with quilts in the same manner as our military, which Sir James Foulis is to see complied with as soon as possible.

The Superintendent reporting that he has got the "Hardwicke" and "Lively" ready for store and hospital vessels, likewise twenty fishing boats for disembarking men, the same is approved.

R. BOURCHIER.
CHAS. CROMMELIN.
JAMES FOULIS.
J. SPENCER.
S. HOUGH.

Instructions to Colonel Robert Clive *and Captain* Samuel Hough.

Gentlemen,—We think it highly necessary to give you some instructions for your guidance in such occurrences as may probably happen, and as for anything else that may regard the Hon'ble Company's interest in the prosecution of the present intended expedition, which we cannot now recollect, we leave entirely to your discretion.

Should Tuláji A'ngria be taken prisoner, we think it highly necessary that he should be brought to Bombay to be disposed of here as thought proper.

It is highly probable that after the reduction of Gheria, Admiral Watson will think proper to return to Bombay, or the other coast; but as our engagements with the Maráthás are that we shall in conjunction with them destroy all Tuláji A'ngria's fortifications, it is our orders that your whole force, in conjunction with the Maráthás, do proceed and attack every one of his forts or castles near the sea, which, when taken, are by our agreement to be delivered to the Maráthás with all their artillery and ammunition.

As you know that the Admirals have insisted that all artillery and military stores are the property of the captors, and that we have agreed with them, that in case Rámájipant will not give that point up, that the Company are to pay the Admirals and other captors the value of them, you are to use all persuasive means to induce Rámájipant to make the captors such an allowance for the military stores as they shall agree for and be satisfied with, to prevent disputes afterwards.

Herewith you have a copy of the articles of agreement with the Maráthás previous to our entering into this war in conjunction with them, which has been complied with punctually on our side, but in our opinions not so punctually on theirs. They have delivered Bánkot and Himatgar to us, but to this hour have not settled the limits we are to have, which, we think, they will readily comply with in case the fort or castle at Gheria is not immediately delivered up to them. There is a place called Harasure (Hareshvar) contiguous to Mandava, on the north side of Marcarry river, which it is absolutely necessary we should have, though not stipulated in the articles, which we would have you insist shall be within our limits. There is a pagoda or small hill there, which probably may be held in veneration by them, and they may be permitted the liberty of going to it, but no right of territory must be allowed them within our limits, nor can they pretend to any right of their own, as it is a conquered country from Tuláji A'ngria.

It is proper to inform you that our principal inducements for pitching upon this port, in preference to any other in the conquered countries of Tuláji A'ngria, were not from any desire of more territory, but first from its close connection with the Siddi's country, from whence we got our chief supply of horned cattle for the supply of both the island and marine, which the

Maráthás, by daily growing more formidable, would exclude us from, and the Siddi knowing our necessities has sometimes treated us with great insolence. In the next place, it had formerly a considerable sort of trade before A'ngria conquered that country, from the advantageous situation and command of Marcarry river, which runs far up into the country, and has a communication with many considerable cities, as we are informed. But should you be convinced of any other ports having the same advantages or more, and that is more commodious for shipping in any distress from bad weather, or anything else, we empower you to stipulate with the Marátha General Rámájipant for an exchange; but that both you and we may have an opportunity of being convinced of the reality of such advantages, you may leave the confirmation of such article to us.

It is probable that Tuláji A'ngria may offer to capitulate, and possibly offer a sum of money; but you are to consider that this fellow is not on a footing with any prince in the known world, he being a pirate in whom no confidence can be put, not only taking, burning and destroying ships of all nations, but even the vessels belonging to the Natives, which have his own passes, and for which he has annually collected large sums of money. Should he offer any sum of money, it must be a very great one that will pay us for the many rich ships he has taken (which we can't enumerate), besides the innumerable other small vessels; but we well remember the "Charlotte" bound from hence to China, belonging to Madras; the "William" belonging to Bombay, from Bengal; the "Severn", a Bengal freight ship for Bassorah, value nine or ten lákhs ofrupees; the "Derby", belonging to the Hon'ble Company, with the Grab "Restoration," value Rs. 5,22,743-4-6; the Sloop "Pilot" and the "Augusta"; also the "Dadaboy" from Surat, "Rose" from Mangalore, Grab "Anne" from Gombroon, "Benjimolly" from the Malabár Coast, and "Futte Dowlat" from Mascat. Add to all these the vast expense the Hon'ble Company has been obliged to be at, to support a marine force to protect their trade, at between three and four lákhs of rupees per annum, for a series of years past. All these damages, we think, he cannot make good, and if he could, we can't see what security he can give for performance of articles; so that upon the whole we think it will be a general good to the world that he be entirely rooted out, and if he survives the attack of Gheria, and should be taken prisoner, that you bring him to Bombay. For should he fall into the Maráthás' hands they may be induced, from what motive we can't know, to release him, and he may again become more powerful and mischievous villain than he has been already; and we all know that he and his ancestors have for a series of years supported themselves solely by rapine and the plundering of industrious merchants.

In case any accident should happen to Lieutenant-Colonel Clive, we order that Major John Chalmers shall command all the Hon'ble Company's troops employed on this service.

Should time permit, after your reducing all Tuláji A'ngria's forts, we recommend to you rooting out the Málvans, who have lately annoyed the trade very much, or settle affairs with them, as you think most conducive to the general welfare.

We consign you twenty thousand rupees to defray any charges which may be incurred, and have appointed Mr. Michael Pope to act as your Secretary and Military Paymaster, who embarks with the treasure on the "Hardwicke" storeship.

We are,
Your loving friends,
RICHARD BOURCHIER.
ROBERT CLIVE.
CHARLES CROMMELIN.
JAMES FOULIS.
JOHN SPENCER.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

Bombay Castle, 6th February 1756.

Bombay Castle, February 1756.

Saturday, 7th.—At 8 this morning the squadron under Rear-Admiral Watson in the "Kent", on which Messrs. Hough and Clive embarked, with several of the Hon'ble Company's vessels, sailed to join those off Gheria in order to proceed on the expedition.

Wednesday, 18th.—Came in an express boat by which the President received a letter from Admiral Watson acquainting him with the agreeable news of the surrender of Gheria as entered hereafter.

Letter from Admiral Watson *to the* President.

"Kent", in Gheria Harbour, 14th February 1756.

Sir,—I can only now acquaint you that I arrived with the squadron the 11th instant in the evening off Gheria and came to an anchor, when I was informed that Tuláji A'ngria was actually treating with the Maráthás in order to surrender the place to them. I therefore thought no time should be lost, and accordingly sent a summons to him the next morning to surrender the town and fort to me; but not receiving an answer in the time proposed, and finding the Maráthás were trifling with us, I weighed with the squadron at 1 o'clock and ran into the harbour; and as they thought proper to fire at the ships as they passed by the batteries, as soon as we were placed, we began such a fire upon them as I believe they never saw before, and which soon silenced their batteries and fire from their grabs.

A little after 4 o'clock a shell fell into the "Restoration"[1], which set her on fire, and very soon after Ángria's whole fleet was on fire, and they are all destroyed.

As I suspected they would probably let in the Maráthás, I landed all the troops that night to get between the town and them, and indeed I found what I suspected to be true, for Tuláji had sent orders to his brother-in-law, who commanded in the town, upon no account to let the English come in.

Yesterday morning I sent another message to the Commandant, that if he did not in an hour's time deliver up the place and let the English march in, I would renew my attack, and he must expect no quarter. He begged I would wait till the next morning, for that it was not in his power to deliver up the place without Tuláji's permission, which he has sent for.

As I found they were still trifling with me to gain time that the Maráthás might get into the town before us, I renewed the attack about 4 in the afternoon, and in about twenty minutes they flung out a flag of truce.

I insisted that our troops should be let in and their colours hauled down, but as I found they did not comply with this demand, I found myself obliged to renew the attack again, when they very soon after called out for mercy, being near enough to hear them call, for at low water the "Kent" was aground. By this you may see we had nothing to spare.

Captain Forbes with sixty men marched into the fort last night and took possession of the place and we hoisted an English flag, and this morning the whole body of English forces marched in.

I have appointed Rámájipant to meet me on board this afternoon, as he is desirous of speaking with me, but I shall tell him I will not let a Marátha come into the town till they have delivered Tuláji into my hands, being persuaded they will otherwise ill-use the poor man, and all his family I am told have begged not to be prisoners to the Maráthás.

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[1] The "Restoration" was an English ship which had been captured by Angria.

Our loss on the whole has been but very few men, and no material accident to the ships, except the loss of the "Tyger's" bowsprit.

I have nothing further to add, but only to wish you joy of our success, and to desire the favour you will order the "Shetham" to call off here, as I should not only be glad to send despatches home to England, but also a plan of the place.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
CHARLES WATSON.

To Richard Bourchier, Esq.

Bombay Castle, 19th February 1756.

The President despatched an express boat with the following answer to Rear-Admiral Watson at Gheria:—

"To
CHARLES WATSON, Esquire.

Sir,—Yesterday I had the pleasure of receiving your letter with the agreeable news of the surrender of Gheria, on which give me leave to congratulate you with the greatest sincerity. I am concerned to hear that the Maráthás attempted to act so double a part, but I am greatly rejoiced to find that you did not give them time to put any of their pernicious schemes in execution.

I am greatly rejoiced to hear that Tuláji's whole fleet is destroyed, which will be a sure means of preventing any other villain infesting the seas with those which would have fallen to the Maráthás' share.

I hope that on the interview with Rámáji he will hear reason and deliver Tuláji to you, for I think they are not to be trusted with the keeping of him, as they would most certainly let him go for a sum of money, if he has any left, and I hope you have put that out of his power, on which give me leave to congratulate you.

The Maráthás have been so far from complying with their engagements with us that they have not to this hour appointed any body to settle our limits at Victoria, and I have received advice from Surat that three Dutch ships were to sail a few days ago from thence for Bassein with Mynheer Crownemberg to settle at Bassein, the Maráthás having actually contracted with the Dutch for a quantity of goods. For these reasons, should Gheria still be in your hands, I must request that the place be not delivered up to them till Tuláji is delivered to you and every article of our agreement complied with by them.

The 'Shetham' shall have orders to attend you for your despatches for Europe.

I am, with regard,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
RICHARD BOURCHIER.

Bombay Castle, 19th February 1756".

Bombay Castle, February 1756.

Thursday, 26th.—Late this evening Mr. Samuel Hough returned from Gheria on the Grab "Bombay" to acquaint the President with the situation of affairs there.

Bombay Castle, March 1756.

Monday, 1st.—The President despatched an express boat with the following letters to Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive at Gheria:—

"To

CHARLES WATSON, Esquire.

Sir,—Captain Hough did not arrive here till the 26th at night, being much indisposed, but is on the mending hand.

I am greatly rejoiced to find that you have not delivered the fort of Gheria to the Maráthás, which had you done, there is great reason to believe that they would not have complied with their part of the agreement with the Hon'ble Company.

I have had a vast deal of impertinence from Rámájipant's Diván, but I am in hopes that I have brought him to reason at last, and he will go down to Rámájipant on the 4th instant, to endeavour to make him comply with some articles we are about agreeing to, the substance of which is, that they are to leave us in the quiet possession of Gheria and its dependencies, and we are to return them Fort Victoria and Tuláji's family; and they oblige themselves that neither Tuláji nor his family shall be maltreated nor have any residence within twenty *kos* of the sea.

Should you think proper to quit Gheria before these affairs are settled, I must request that you will leave such a garrison of the Company's troops in the fort as may be judged necessary, and bring the King's three companies of the train with you, and leave also 'Protector', 'Revenge', 'Guardian' and 'Viper' with three gallivats, and to bring all the rest of the vessels along with you.

I shall be obliged for advice of your intention of quitting the place by an express boat, that I may send proper orders and a Company's servant to settle matters with the Maráthás after your departure.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
RICHARD BOURCHIER.

Parel, 1st March 1756."

"To

Colonel ROBERT CLIVE.

Sir,—You had heard from me soon after Captain Hough's arrival the 26th ultimo at night, but I have been amused by Rámájipant's Diván all this time about our exchanging Fort Victoria for Gheria, and they are to have Tuláji and his family, on conditions that they are not to

permit him to have any place within twenty *kos* of the sea. This proposal he made me four days ago, but flew off of his own accord under pretence that they should have half the plunder. It is needless to tell you the plague and fatigue I have had with him, but hope I have fixed him at last, but he won't go down to Rámáji till the 4th, when I will send the 'Bombay' Grab with him, and probably a Company's servant to take charge till Mr. Price can arrive from Victoria.

As it is probable that Mr. Watson will not care to stay so long as the Maráthás may be a spinning out this treaty, I have desired him that he will leave a sufficient garrison of the Company's military to take care of the place and bring the three companies of the King's train up here; also that he will leave the 'Protector', 'Revenge', 'Guardian' and 'Viper' with three gallivats, and to bring all the rest of the vessels up, as we shall be in want of them.

Could I be sure that you would stay till these affairs are settled, it would be needless to send any other Company's servant till Mr. Price goes to receive the charge of the place, as I think they are willing to part with it. I shall be glad of as speedy answer as possible to this letter, which will oblige,

Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
RICHARD BOURCHIER.

Parel, 1st March 1756."

DIARY OF CAPTAIN HOUGH, MARINE SUPERINTENDENT.

Monday 2nd February 1756.—Agreeably to the request of Admiral Watson met him on board His Majesty's ship "Tyger" this day, when we came to the following resolution in regard to the distribution of such effects as shall be taken at Gheria.

At a Council of War, held on board His Majesty's ship "Tyger" in Bombay Harbour this 2nd day of February 1756, to agree and settle the distribution of all such effects as shall be taken at Gheria either by sea or land—

CHARLES WATSON, Esq., Rear-Admiral of the Red and Commander-in-Chief, President.

GEORGE POCOCK, Esq., Rear-Admiral of the White.
Captain THOMAS KNOWLES.
Captain THOMAS LATHAM.
Captain HENRY SPEKE.
Captain JOHN HARRISON.
Colonel CLIVE.
Major CHALMERS.
Captain SKEDDEY.

Captain SAMUEL HOUGH, Superintendent of the East India Company's Marine.

Having duly considered on a method to distribute all such money as may be taken or raised from effects that may be found at Gheria, it is hereby agreed to spread the whole sum between the sea and land forces both in King's and Company's service in the following manner:—

One-eighth to be divided between the flag officers, as the King's proclamation directs.

Two-eighths to be divided between Colonel Clive, Major Chalmers, and the Captains of His Majesty's ships; but in consideration that Colonel Clive will command-in-chief the land forces, in case they are employed ashore, Rear-Admiral Watson consents to give the Colonel such a part of his share as will make it equal to Rear-Admiral Pocock's.

One-eighth to be divided between the Lieutenant and Masters of His Majesty's ships, Land Captains, Aide-de-Camp, Judge Advocate, Commissary of Stores, and Commanders

of the Company's armed vessels; but in consideration of the great numbers of officers of class, and as it is not thought reasonable that the black people employed on this expedition should share in the same proportion as the Europeans, but only that they should have half that proportion, this being the constant custom of sharing prize money between the Europeans and black people in the Company's service, it is therefore agreed that the other half shall be added to the one-eighth allotted to this class.

One-eighth to be divided between the Lieutenants, Ensigns, Adjutants, Quarter-Masters, Chaplains and Surgeons in the land service, Warrant Officers and Mates of His Majesty's ships and Lieutenants in the Company's armed ships and vessels.

One-eighth to be divided between the Petty Officers of His Majesty's ships, Deputy Commissary of Stores, Surgeons, Mates, Conductors, Serjeants, Corporates and Bombardiers, Gunners, Boatswain and Carpenters of the Company's armed vessels and Masters of their gallivats.

Two-eighths to be divided between the common men in general, both in the sea and land service.

In case any person is killed or dies during any action or siege where a capture is made, either at sea or land, his executors shall have the share which was allotted him according to his rank, and no officer succeeding another killed, or dying, during such action or siege shall receive more prize money than what he was entitled to by his former station.

No person whatever, whether in the land or sea service, shall share in two capacities.

CHARLES WATSON.
GEORGE POCOCK.
THOMAS KNOWLES.
THOMAS LATHAM.
HENRY SPEKE.
JOHN HARRISON.
ROBERT CLIVE.
JOHN CHALMERS.
JOHN SKEDDEY.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

Saturday, 7th.—Weighed from Bombay with the fleet, and stood to the southward, when we met with Rámji Parbhu in a Marátha gallivat, who said he had a letter for Governor Bourchier, but that his orders from Rámájipant were to return to him again in case he met our fleet at sea, upon which he was immediately despatched to Jaygad, where he said Rámáji was. This afternoon received letters from Governor Bourchier, advising that Tuláji was treating with the Maráthás, and on discoursing with the Admiral found he was determined to proceed against Gheria, whether the Maráthás joined him or not.

Sunday, 8th.—At day-light saw two sail to the S.-W., which proved to be the Grab "Bombay" and Onore "Drake", whose commanders, agreeably to their orders, put themselves under the Admiral's command, and we were soon after joined by the Sloop "Content" and gallivats from Fort Victoria, whose masters likewise did the same. Returned the boat back to Bombay which brought the letters yesterday.

Monday, 9th.—At sun-rise this morning being near Fort Victoria they saluted the Admiral with a number of guns, which he returned with fifteen. Sent the Grab "Bombay" ahead of the fleet to Jaygad with a letter to Rámájipant.

Tuesday, 10th.—As we stood to the southward looked into Ante Gheria, but saw nothing there.

Wednesday, 11th.—Saw our cruisers at anchor off Rájápur with several Marátha grabs and gallivats in show of them. At midnight we anchored a little way without the Bridgewater, when Captain Martin came aboard and acquainted us that the Maráthás had taken Rájápur Fort with the loss of about three hundred men, most of which were blown up by a magazine's taking fire; but some say it was purposely set on fire by the Governor when he found his people were corrupted and would not defend the fort. When the sea wind set in we weighed and ran nearer in shore. At 4 P.M. Rámájipant came aboard the Admiral and told him, if we would have a little patience, the fort would surrender without our firing a gun, for that Tulája had sent and desired to treat with him, which he had refused to do without our permission, and said he would bring Tulája, or some other proper person, the next morning by 8 o'clock to treat with us in regard to giving up the place, though at the same time he had the assurance to offer me any sum of money I could name on condition I could persuade the Admiral to desist commencing hostilities till they should deliver up the fort.

Thursday, 12th.—Rámájipant, instead of coming off this morning agreeably to his promise, sent the Governor of Chaul aboard about 10 o'clock, with an excuse that he could not possibly come himself till the evening, which in reality was only a pretence to put off our beginning the attack, for he was then treating with Tulája's officers to deliver up the fort to him on certain conditions, the consequences of which I took care to represent to the Admiral in its proper light, which made him determine to run in and begin the attack as soon as the sea and wind would permit. About 1 P.M. sea wind setting in, the Admiral made a signal for the fleet to weigh and stood into Gheria harbour. At 2 o'clock the enemy fired; the "Revenge" returned it about 7 minutes after. At 10 minutes past 2 made the signal to engage, loosed our top gallant sails, and made the "Tyger's" signal to set the same sail the Admiral had, which was obeyed. At 15 minutes past 2 took in top gallant sails; about 16 minutes the "Tyger" furled top gallant sails, sent a message to Captain Latham to haul up more and make more sail. Hauled down the yellow flag.

At 20 minutes past 2 the "Revenge" anchored, and the "Tyger" began to fire.

At 21 minutes past 2 the "Tyger" hoisted her jib and maintop mast, stay sail, and at 22 minutes having loosened top gallant sails we began to fire.

At 24 minutes past 2 made the signal for the "Tyger's" closer engaging.

At 25 minutes past 2 braced our yards one way, and the other, the other, to keep astern of the "Tyger".

At 44 minutes past 2 by the "Tyger's" coming to an anchor, our ship having little way, and the tide taking her quarter, we fell with our stern on board her, and carried away her bowsprit end, but she veering soon cleared each other.

At 46 minutes past 2 made the singal for anchoring, and at 55 minutes sent orders to the "Guardian" to slip and get out of our way.

At 3 o'clock we swung and brought our larboard side to bear.

At ½ past 3 sent orders to the "Guardian" to leave off firing, being too far off.

At 31 minutes past 3 sent a message to Captain Latham to direct his whole fire at the N.-E. angle of the fort.

At 46 minutes past 3 made the signal for all pinnaces and barges manned and armed.

At 24 minutes past 4 o'clock made the signal for the squadron to cease firing.

At 25 minutes past 4 one of the grabs was set on fire and blew up, and they all took fire by her falling on board them.

At 29 minutes past 4 having laid a warp in shore, began to heave, and at ½ past 4 anchored under the "Cumberland's" stern.

At 35 minutes past 4 made the signal and began to engage again.

At ½ past 5 o'clock the fort was on fire.

At 35 minutes past 5 made a signal to cease firing.

At 50 minutes past 5 sent the "Bridgewater's" ten-oared boat to a sloop up the harbour, who made a signal.

At ½ past 7 o'clock the Colonel, with the troops, disembarked.

At 50 minutes past 8 o'clock Colonel Clive having landed above the fort about half a mile, burnt two blue lights (a signal agreed on) as a confirmation that all were friends that had appeared upon the hill in the afternoon.

Friday, 13th.—At ¾ past 7 A.M. made the signal for all Lieutenants to order the line of battle ships and "Protector" to warp in, and only to fire their lower tier to batter in breach.

At 10 A.M. sent a flag of truce to the Commandant of the fort, who returned at ½ past 12.

At ½ past 12 P.M. sent the frigates, barges and pinnaces, manned and armed, in pursuit of some vessels up the harbour employed in warping close in.

At 45 minutes past 3 made the signal to engage, which the "Kent", "Cumberland", "Tyger", "Salisbury", "Protector" and bomb vessels immediately obeyed.

At 55 minutes past 3 the little magazine in the fort blew up.

At 4 minutes past 4 made the signal to cease firing, the fort having flung out a flag of truce, sent an officer on shore to treat with the Commandant.

At 55 minutes past 4 the officer returned without the enemy's surrendering.

At 5 o'clock made the signal and began to engage again.

At 20 minutes past 5 made the signal and ceased firing on an officer's coming from the fort, with proposals, which were agreed to, and an officer sent on shore to take possession of the fort.

At 23 minutes past 6 P.M. the flag in the fort was struck, and an officer with 60 men marched into the fort and took possession.

At 36 minutes past 6 English colours were hoisted at the fort.

Saturday, 14th.—This morning Colonel Clive with all the land forces marched into the fort, despatched away an express boat with advices to the Hon'ble Richard Bourchier, Esq., President and Governor of Bombay, of our having taken Gheria and burnt all A'ngria's fleet, which consisted of the "Restoration", eight ketch grabs, and two large three-mast grabs on the stocks ready for launching, besides a great number of small craft.

Sunday, 15th.—To-day despatched a boat to Tellicherry, advising the Chief and Factors there of our success, and desired them if the "Pelham" had not left the coast to acquaint the Court of Directors with the purport of my letter. Rámájipant came aboard the Admiral and desired Marátha colours might be hoisted on the fort as well as ours, and that he might send some of his people into the fort. The former request was agreed to, but the latter I rejected, as they had not fired a gun or given us the least assistance towards the taking it, but had acted a quite different part than was agreed on by the treaty. Having made use of all the methods he could

think of for the place to be delivered up to him without any regard to us, and when he found he could not obtain his ends, he even tempted our own officers (who were lodged with a party of men within a hundred and fifty yards of the fort) by offering them a lákh of rupees to let his people pass our sentinels in order to get into the fort before us, which they rejected in a proper manner, and told him they would immediately fire upon him and his people if they did not retire, which they thought proper to do upon our people being ordered to present their firelocks. He after that found means to convey a letter to the Governor of the fort, requesting him not to give up the fort or suffer English colours to be hoisted on any consideration whatever. This the Governor affirms to be truth, and says he is ready to declare it upon oath in the most solemn manner. It seems that Tuláji went out of his fort to treat with Kondáji Mánkar (the Marátha General), when they seized his person and wanted to oblige him to deliver up the fort to them, which certainly would have been the consequence, had not the attack been made when it was, and our troops landed, which cut off all manner of communication between them and the fort. Upon Rámájipant's desiring to have the fort delivered to him I demanded that Tuláji A'ngria might be first delivered us in order to his being sent to Bombay, which he said he could not comply with, as Kondáji Mánkar (the Marátha General) had given his oath, he could not deliver him into our hands. However I look upon this as a pretence only, for the Governor of the fort and all Tuláji's family requested, as a very particular favour, that they might not be delivered up to the Maráthás, for which reason I desired the whole might be referred to the Hon'ble Richard Bourchier, Esq., President, and Members of the Select Committee of Bombay. Since our taking possession of the fort large sums of money and great quantities of all sorts of goods have been found, and it is reported Tuláji has secreted a great deal of treasure in the fort, and made away with those poor wretches who had assisted in burying of it.

Monday, 16th.—Every day hitherto has been productive of some new discoveries of treasure, plates and jewels, &c.

Tuesday, 17th.—It being agreed that I should proceed to Bombay in order to state the whole proceedings to the Hon'ble the President and Members of the Select Committee, that they might better judge of the same and issue their orders in such a manner as they might think most proper for the interest of our hon'ble employers, the Grab "Bombay" is ordered to hold herself in readiness to sail.

Wednesday, 18th.—Captain Keble having received the Admiral's orders to receive me on board and make the best of his way for Bombay, I accordingly left the "Kent" and embarked on board the grab.

Thursday, 19th.—The land wind coming off we weighed and put to sea bound for Bombay.

Thursday, 26th.—After a tedious passage of eight days we arrived here and made a report of our transactions (as above set forth) to the Hon'ble the President and Select Committee.

SAMUEL HOUGH,

Superintendent.

Translate of a Letter from NA'NA, dated 21st July, and received the 30th of the same month, 1756.

After compliments.

I have received your friendly letter, the purport of which is, that the fort of Gheria shall be delivered as soon as our agreement is complied with, and that at present you can't bring

your people up on account of the season; that after the cocoanuts[1] are hove in the sea you shall send your ships for them. That on my arrival at Poona you would send your gentlemen to me to settle every thing. That as Gheria has a good harbour for large ships (which Bánkot has not), you proposed to change Bánkot for Gheria and be barrier between us and the Portuguese; but if this was not liked, you are ready to deliver up Gheria as soon as our agreement is complied with, and as soon as your ships are able to go. Bájipant and Jiváji Nánji have likewise fully written me, but the war which I made with A'ngria was to get Gheria, so consider how it would look if I was to deliver that place to you, and which is far from our agreement. As for the Portuguese, I am sure if we both join together we can demolish any power of theirs, for which reasons there was no need to have had so many embarrassments about them. Now you say it is an improper time, but there is ill from its being an improper time. Your Honor and I are hearty friends, so what disadvantage would there be to you should you deliver the fort and order your people to live in the town. I could send those people by land, giving them what is necessary. On considering the above, let an order be issued out to deliver the fort, as also send the gentlemen to me at Poona, where I arrived the 20th instant, that the ill which has arisen in our friendship may at once be taken off.

Translate of a Paper enclosed in the above Letter.

By our long friendship several great businesses of confidence have been finished and the friendship settled between the King of England and us was duly cultivated, because of all Europeans the English are people of their honor and word. What they speak the same they do, an instance of which is that the Governor of Durmápatam and Mahomet Ally Khán of Trichinapoly had an agreement and an alliance settled between them which was fully complied with, in so much that the English by expending their money, ammunition, people, &c., made Mahomet Ally Khán victorious. I reckon your Honor an Englishman as well as him, and I keep my eye to what capitulations are made with the King of England. Gheria is a place belonging to this kingdom; I therefore to get that place and demolish your enemy did open a war and ruin him. Nevertheless it is to my great surprise I see such a thing from your friendship. What had you in the world by keeping Gheria five or six months? Your Honor don't consider it well. Your Honor says that you have some trifling things to be settled, and though you had delivered the fort I would have seen them settled from the regard I have to you. The English are men of their word; it therefore was not just for them to act in this manner. However I hope now that you will by considering well the actions of the King of England, and of the other great gentlemen, comply with our agreement, by sending an order to deliver the fort to the Sarkár's people, and send the gentlemen to me, in doing which you will look well in the world, and should this not come into your heart, it shall be done as God pleases.

Translate of another Paper enclosed in the said Letter.

This is to give you good news that the Sunda Rája gave to the Sarkár one of his forts called Maingar, which the Viceroy took ill, and though my people wrote him to remain in friendship, yet he himself with 3,000 Portuguese and 3,000 sepoys, guns, mortars, &c., came there and began to fire guns, bomb-shells, &c., upon the said fort, by which one of the bulwarks took fire and blew up. They came to break the fort gate, but my people in the fort taking a strong resolution killed the Viceroy and about 200 Portuguese, and made the remainder run away. We got all their guns, &c., and the Viceroy's body.

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[1] On the 15th of Shrávan (September) Hindus throw cocoanuts into the sea to propitiate it. This day is called Nárali Paurnima or the Cocoanut Day. It is believed that the stormy weather of the monsoon ceases from that day.

President's Letter.

To Na'na, with all his titles.

After compliments.

I have received your friendly letter and congratulate your safe arrival at Poona, where I have long wished you to be.

I have not the least doubt of your friendship to me, and am sure that you would not desire me to do any thing for which my masters may blame me. As I have all along assured you, so I do now, that I never had any intention of keeping Gheria any longer than till our articles were complied with, which, though they may seem trifles to you, they are not so to us, and in particular the Dutch trade being stopped, which you assured me should not only be abolished but that they should not have any intercourse with your country. And though your people may have told you that they have put an entire stop to it, I say they have not, and to this very hour large quantities of the Dutch goods are daily carried into your country. Chaukis may be set, but till some of them are punished for disobeying your orders they will not do their duty. Your people had informed you that they have delivered us Bánkot and the villages; but to convince you that they have only delivered us the fort, a little time ago Bájipant showed me the sanads for the villages, but told me, that he had orders not to deliver them unless I would previously give him an order for the delivery of Gheria. I was greatly surprised, that they should be guilty of such a blunder as to detain the sanads, which would convince you that what they had written you of having complied on their part in every respect was a downright falsity, as you would now see by their having the sanads in their possession; but as they had kept them so long, they might now keep them till I could have the pleasure of sending some of my own people to you, who are the only men in your dominions whose word and honor I can rely upon.

That I made a proposal of exchanging Bánkot for Gheria is true, but I never insisted on it, unless it had been agreeable to you; and I do assure you that it shall be delivered to you as soon as the weather will permit of my people's returning here by sea. But I hope you will excuse my being at the expense of their marching overland, which would not only be vastly inconvenient but very troublesome, and would destroy a great many of my men this rainy weather. You mistake me greatly if you imagine I have any intentions but what are honorable. No misunderstanding shall happen between you and I, as I rely entirely on your friendship and wish I could do the same on all your officers; but some of them have used both you and me very ill in misrepresenting affairs to you, which our gentlemen will convince you of when they arrive at Poona, and they will set out as soon as they can be properly prepared for this dirty rainy weather.

I know very well what has been done in the Province of Arcot by the Governors of Jevnápatam and Chimpatam on behalf of Anna Verdy Caun (Anwar-ud-din), and am sorry you should think me less an Englishman than those gentlemen, or that I have not the honor of my king and country as much at heart, which you shall always find I have, so there was no need of your writing my king about my not delivering up Gheria, when your own officers would not maintain your honor in complying with your engagements, and any, either king or private man, would have deemed me a fool to have delivered up Gheria before your engagements were fully complied with by your officers, which I dare say would have been done long ago had you not been at such a distance.

Give me leave to congratulate you on your success at Maingar, where I hear that the Viceroy lost his life by the cowardice of his soldiers running away. I believe you are misinformed as to the number of Portuguese that attacked that fort, as they have hardly that number in Goa.

I am, &c.,
R. BOURCHIER.

Bombay Castle, August 1st, 1756.

Bombay Castle, 31st October 1756.

Mr. John Spencer delivered in a report of his proceedings at Poona, as entered hereafter :—

"Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—Your commands of the 2nd and 10th September having invested me with the powers to act separately with Nána in such affairs as are more immediately under the direction of the Committee, I shall in this address acquaint your Honor and Council how far the situation I found things in at Poona has enabled me to put them in execution.

On my arrival at Poona not meeting with any advices from the Select Committee at Madras or from any one employed by them, I waved as long, as I conveniently could, any discourse with Nána on the subject of my commission in hope of hearing from them, or procuring some more certain intelligence of their engagements with Salábatjang by some other channel than your Honor and Council from their advices to you were enabled to give me at my departure, but unfortunately during my whole stay at Poona I did not receive a line from them, so that like yourself I was entirely in the dark as to the particulars of their engagements. On making the necessary enquiry at Poona I found that the advice we had received at Bombay, previous to my departure, of the French having been dismissed by Salábatjang, at the instigation of Nána, was true, as was that of their having afterwards seized on Hyderabad. This intelligence I procured from Amrutráv, one of Nána's principal officers and ministers, who had the management of discarding the French from Salábatjang committed to him by Nána. From him I also learnt that though Nána's pretended motives for it was to oblige Salábatjang, to whom M. Bussy was become troublesome from the undue influence he had acquired in Salábatjang's camp, yet the real motive was the desire Nána had to remove so powerful a confederate from the Moors, the inconveniency of whose junction with them he had more than once felt to his cost in his dispute with them a few years since. For although Salábatjang relieved Nána the last season from the embarrassments he was in the southward, yet the terms of the assistance then afforded were so heavy, that I find it is thought at Poona, if Salábatjang insists on the full performance of them, it will create disturbances between them. Amrutráv also informed me, that on the news of the quarrel between the French and Salábatjang reaching the Coromandel Coast a party was sent from Pondicherry to Hyderabad under Monsr. Law, consisting of near 1,000 men, military and sepoys, of the latter about 5 or 6 hundred; that they had a skirmish on the way with the Moors, but nevertheless joined Bussy, whom Monsr. Law reconciled to the Nabob, assuring him that Bussy had been wrong, and had acted against the orders from Pondicherry, and desiring what was past might be forgotten. The French were once more in Salábatjang's pay; but that since then Salábatjang was by degrees stripping them of their influence, and in order thereto had separated from them the body of country troops that Bussy used to receive a jagair, for the maintenance of which the Nabab now pays himself, as he does the French and their own proper Pondicherry sepoys. The number of Bussy's own proper

party was, according to the best accounts I could get, about 5 or 6 hundred Europeans and military, and a few hundred sepoys, but this account I can't certainly rely on. This is the substance of what I gathered from Amrutráv and my own observation previous to my meeting with Nána on account of this business, which I delayed, as long as I possibly could, for the reason above mentioned.

At the conference I had with Nána on this occasion, were present only his own brother Rághoba, his cousin Sadoba, and Amrutráv, the officer above mentioned. I opened the conference with assuring him of the desire your Honor and Council had that the good correspondence which had so long subsisted between his family and the Hon'ble Company should be continued. And as a mark of your sincere friendship to Nána had directed me to advise him of the application that had been made to our gentlemen at Madras by Salábatjang for men, on the French having acted so treacherously by him, which I properly aggravated to Nána. I then proceeded to acquaint him that your Honour and Council were ignorant of the particulars of the treaty, but that as our gentlemen at Madras knew the friendly terms we were on with Nána's family you were fully persuaded they would not enter into any terms that might be hurtful to him and that on the first notice of this treaty you had written those gentlemen very particularly on this head, and empowered me also to explain to him what you yet knew of this affair; I then desired he would inform me clearly of his situation regarding the Moors that we might know how far his interest might be ill or well affected by such engagements of ours, which he must know were occasioned only by the perfidy of the French, who taking advantage of the discontent of particular officers about Salábatjang had acquired an influence hurtful to their benefactor. And this I urged was ever the practice of the French to make use of such opportunities as offered for their own particular advantage without regarding any engagements they might have repugnant thereto, but that such was not the custom of the English, might be seen by their faithful adherence to Mahomet Alli Khán in the worst of times. And much more I added in the conference to this purpose. Both Nána and Sadoba in reply to this related to me what had passed between the French and Salábatjang much to the same purport as I had heard from Amrutráv and others as mentioned in the foregoing part of this letter. He added that he at present was on good terms with Salábatjang; yet if the treaty I mentioned was not actually entered into, he wished it could be declined, and that such engagements for the future could be avoided by us. That he was duly sensible of the part the French had acted, but that measures were taken to prevent their influence in future. And after much discourse on this head he concluded with assuring me that he looked on the communication of the above as a sincere mark of the English friendship to his family, and that when the affair of Gheria was settled on the footing proposed, he was certain nothing could happen to interrupt our friendship. He had some knowledge of the application that had been made to Madras, but did not more than myself know whether any men would be sent from Salábatjang, but he said that he concluded Salábatjang's reconcilement to the French had rendered it useless.

We then entered upon the affairs of the Coromandel Coast introduced by Nána's asking me if the peace made there for eighteen months had been confirmed at home or not? My reply to this was a candid account of the situation of our affairs at home and abroad with regard to the French, showing also that, from the same restless disposition, the French as in India so in Europe and America they broke their faith and treaties which had obliged us to seize above 500 of their ships of trade with some of their men-of-war, and which we continued to do till we should receive satisfaction from them. But I also told him that when the last advices came away, actual war was not declared on either side. At this meeting I had not received the advice from Bombay of war being actually declared with France, and when I did, I thought it most prudent to keep it to myself till we had finished the treaty Mr. Byfeld and myself were

settling with him. I then apprised him of the nature of our dispute on the Coromandel Coast from its first rise till the conclusion of the treaty he mentioned, showing that the French spurning at the Mogal's authority had treacherously procured Navázjang to be murdered, set up pretenders in the Provinces, and by fictitious grants were assuming the right of the whole country on the Coromandel Coast to themselves. These proceedings of theirs, and a desire of supporting the Mogal's authority in the person of the Nabob of Arcot and our own privileges in trade likewise, drew us into the dispute, and that we had succeeded so far as to re-establish the Nabob, and defeat the usurper so unjustly set up by the French, but that we were so desirous of restoring peace to the country, that when most successful we still never refused to settle affairs on equitable terms, and at length concluded the treaty he mentioned. To the whole of this they were very attentive and greatly applauded the conduct of the English, and added that it was a mark of your Honor and Council's regard for him to explain this affair so clearly to him, which he said corresponded with the accounts he had received of it from time to time from the Moors and his own people.

Nána then changed the discourse to the treaty we had come to settle with him, and added that as it would be settled to our mutual satisfaction by our being at Poona, he hoped he should find the English continue as good friends to him at Bombay as the gentlemen at Madras had been to Mahomet Alli Khán. He then told me how glad he should be to have a body of our troops and artillery with him in the same manner as Mahomet Khán had. But as agreeably to your command of the 10th September I could not give him the least hopes of this, I waved it as easily as I could by assuring him that on all occasions he would find the English his firm friends, yet from the uncertain State affairs were in Europe regarding the French and as it would not be prudent to lessen our garrison, nor could your Honor and Council answer it to the Hon'ble Company, but at all times in every thing we conveniently could do, he would find the English his sincere friends. I took this opportunity of letting him know that as things between us and the French might bring on a war, in such case if they should endeavour to hurt Bassein on account of the capture of their vessels, we should afford him what assistance we could, and did not doubt of his doing the same in case of their endeavouring to prejudice us. But as we had made it a condition of the treaty that he was to send a person of distinction to Bombay to proceed to Gheria, I waved a further discussion of these points and told him your Honor and Council would fully convince Nána through that person of your friendship to his house, and thus the thing dropped.

Nána then acquainted me with his intentions of proceeding this year to the southward against Morárji, and so on to the Karnátak Provinces, and said he should be very glad that the gentlemen at Madras were apprised of it, and that in case the necessity of his affairs required his making an application to them, he might be considered as a friend to the English, and meet with assistance from them or any of our Settlements that he might be nearest to. In discoursing with him on this head I perceived he chiefly meant artillery and stores, and people to direct them. I promised him that your Honor and Council would mention this his request to Madras, but could not give him absolute assurances of men and stores, not being sufficiently apprised of their present situation on that coast. But that this he might be assured of, that the English either at Bombay, Madras or elsewhere would always show him all the friendship they consistently could, and I concluded this by letting him know I would represent it fully to your Honor and Council, and that he might be assured of your writing to Madras in a proper manner about him.

The brother Rághoba said little hitherto in the conference, but when we had finished the above, he much pressed Nána to ask your Honor and Council through me for men and artillery to assist him in his expedition against the people about Delhi. Nána accordingly applied to

me, but this I evaded as gently as I could, by representing our situation which would not admit of our parting with people especially so far. But though they then dropt the subject I thought it not impossible but they might renew their application through Govind Shivrám, the person appointed to go to Gheria. But Rághoba's request is a thing, even if we could spare men, that should be avoided, as he only wants the countenance of Europeans to assist him in plundering the Mogal's provinces, which will involve the Hon'ble Company in many difficulties, which your Honor and Council must be fully sensible of.

The foreging is the substance of what passed between Nána, Sadoba and myself; only it may be necessary to remark that during the whole I gave them not the least hopes of men or stores in the manner they requested, but the reverse from our situation regarding affairs in Europe. However on our taking leave Nána desired me to remember his requests, and added that he had also instructed Govind Shivrám, sent with us to talk with your Honor and Council about it.

It also will be necessary, if the gentlemen at Madras on Nána's going that way have occasion to apply to him, that your Honor and Council apprise them that though every thing goes in the name of Nána (or Bájiráv as they call him), yet the affairs of the government pass wholly through the hands of his cousin Sadoba, who acts as Diván, and is a man of great capacity in business, but, as you observed to us, hasty and avaricious. They should be also advised that we have secured one Amrutráv, now a general officer and counsellor of Nána's Court, a friend to the Hon'ble Company. He is always employed in what relates to affairs with Salábatjang, Moráráv, &c., to the southward, and well understands the affairs of the Coromandel Coast. They may talk very freely with him about any business they have with Nána, and he really is a man of weight there, and has an influence both with Nána and Sadoba, being always consulted by them, having been formerly secretary, but resigned it to his nephew Govind Shivrám; and he might be of use to them, being one always about the person of Nána, as an intimate friend and companion, and has been so well treated here as will dispose him to be of service to the English, but the chief thing will be to manage Sadoba properly, with whom, as I said before, the whole business of the government rests.

Thus have I given your Honor and Council a full, though perhaps tedious, narrative of the proceedings at Poona as far as they related to my separate commission which I was the rather induced to as it might be of use in future applications to the Marátha Government. What now remains is to return your Honor and Council the cipher delivered me and the papers relative to it and the Hon'ble Company's plan of operations in case their scheme had taken effect. I also return the order to Mr. De la Garde for the delivery of Gheria; finding that our making use of it would be attended with inconveniences we chose to avoid and therefore brought Govind Shivrám here for that purpose. On the whole I hope my proceedings will meet with the approval of your Honor and Council.

I am.
Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient humble servant,
JOHN SPENCER.

Bombay, 31st October 1756.

ENGLISH EMBASSY

TO THE

MARÁTHÁS IN 1759.

ENGLISH EMBASSY TO THE MARA'THA'S IN 1759.

President and Council's Instructions to William Andrew Price.

Sir,—Nána having frequently desired the President to send a person to Poona with whom he might converse with freedom and confidence regarding our interests, and there being at this critical juncture many important affairs which require being set in a clear and just light, we (except Mr. Brabazon Ellis) have judged it necessary to appoint you to proceed thither on this service, not only as you are master of the Moors' language, understand the Maráthas pretty well, and are acquainted with many of Nána's ministers and principal officers, but likewise because the Hon'ble Secret Committee, under the 4th May 1757, ordered you to be employed in case there should be occasion to send any member of the Board inland. We shall therefore give you the following instructions:—

We expect that you will find Nána's court in great confusion and very much divided, as a difference has subsisted for some time between Nána and Sadoba, which has thrown them into parties, from which we imagine you will find many people who will profess a great friendship for the Hon'ble Company and our nation in general; but you must be very cautious who you place any confidence in. Shankroji Pant, who is disgusted by his late disgrace, and who has fallen into Sadoba's party, we believe may give you some useful intelligence; but he is a crafty old courtier, and we fear pretends to be much a friend to the English only because he has expectations of recovering some money from Surat through our interest. However we flatter ourselves he may on that account be made use of, and is certainly a very sensible man.

It is necessary to acquaint you that Nána is, or pretends to be, greatly disgusted at our not affording him any assistance to reduce Janjira and Underi, which we have great reason to believe has been much inflamed by Rámáji Pant, as he has informed him we have supplied the Siddis with ammunition and provisions from hence, and that had we not supported them, he could have taken Janjira long ago; but we would have you inform Nána that the President knew nothing of Rámáji's intentions of making war against the Siddis till he was actually set out upon that expedition, when he sent Gangádhar Pant to the President, desiring that he would order troops and vessels to assist him in reducing Janjira, which the President told him was not in his power to do for these reasons: first because the Siddis have been friends and allies to the Hon'ble Company for a long series of years, and without orders from our Hon'ble Masters he dare not break with them; and in the next place because they had in our last war with France assisted us with men and every thing in their power: and the President further assured Gangádhar Pant that had Rámáji asked his opinion before he had precipitated himself into a war with the Siddis he would have advised him to have desisted, it having been his opinion that Rámáji could not take Janjira from them. However since that time the President has had many applications to send forces to join the Maráthas and to shut this port against the Siddis, that they might be debarred provisions and ammunition from hence, but you are sensible that trade and not war is our profession, and that we never enter the latter, without it is to defend our property or to resent insulting or injurious treatment; and you are to urge that it would have been an unheard-of piece of cruelty in us to have denied the Siddis the liberty of our bázár, which is open to everybody but our enemies; and as to ammunition, it is well known that the

sale of it is absolutely forbidden and a penalty inflicted on every one who shall be detected in selling any to be carried off the island. As to the Maráthas, they have always had free access to our markets and been amply supplied from thence; even at times that not only pattamars have been stopped with letters coming to this place, but people also living under our protection actually detained with boats of firewood within Rámáji Pant's jurisdiction; and through which common artificers and labourers coming to reside here have not been permitted to pass unmolested; and even at this very time many of our inhabitants are frequently obliged to wait at Bandora till permission is obtained from Thána for their passing over Máhím River, although the royalty thereof was assigned over to our Hon'ble Masters by the last treaty concluded with Messrs. Byfeld and Spencer; and within these few days past the commanding officer of our fleet was required to appear at a *chauki* there under the command of an inferior servant to be examined by him, though that gentleman was furnished with credentials from Nána's principal officers to prevent any insults being offered through his country. We cannot imagine that Nána is acquainted with these impediments we labour under, and you are to demand that positive and effectual orders be issued to his officers to remove them for the future.

It being publicly reported that Nána has been treating with the French, and that he has offered to assist them in taking this place if they will assist him in taking Janjira and Underi, you are to try all proper means to find if there is any foundation for it; and should it prove that he has been treating with the French, you are to represent to him in the strongest and most lively terms the base ingratitude of such a proceeding so soon after the Hon'ble Company have conquered and put him in possession of all Tuláji Angria's country, except Fort Victoria, which does not prove worth our keeping at so great a distance from this place. He will doubtless disown his connections with the French, but to convince him that we are not entirely ignorant of his conduct and have some grounds to suspect his sincerity, you are to insist on his informing you why express orders are sent to all his sea ports to get all his marine fit for the sea and his grabs put in the water at this unusual time of the year, if it is not to have them ready to join any French ships which may come into these seas to attack this place, or annoy our trade?

We are also very credibly informed that he has given orders to Dámáji to prepare for going against Surat when the rains are over; but we are now become a very material part of that Government by a grant from the Mogal, and though the Nána is at this time pleased to make light of those grants to the Hon'ble Company, we would have you remark that he has often assured the President that he acts by the Mogal's authority on many occasions, and that he may rest satisfied we shall do our utmost to protect and maintain all our Hon'ble Masters' privileges and immunities granted by the Mogal against all invaders whatever; and it must be further observed to Nána, that it was at his particular request we turned the Siddis out of the castle at Surat as well as at the desire of the inhabitants in general, and to obtain satisfaction for innumerable injuries done the Hon'ble Company, we cannot therefore but be desirous of knowing under what pretence he intends sending his forces against that place, more especially as we now hold the castle by virtue of the Mogal's royal grant and authority, than which it must be acknowledged he or no one else can show a better title; but should the Nabáb of Surat not pay Nána every year what is justly his due, you may declare to him we shall always be ready to exert our interest and influence in obtaining him redress,

and cannot doubt that Pharas Khán will co-operate with us, as he was fixed there at Nána's instigation; and you are to intimate that in case any army, to whomsoever it may belong, sets before a place where our Hon'ble Masters have a garrison, they may be assured that our troops will do their duty, and they must thank themselves for the consequences, however fatal.

As some overtures were made you when at Fort Victoria in regard to an exchange of that place for some other nearer to Bombay, you are to attend to such proposals as the Nána may make on that head, but would not have you agree to any thing decisive without our permission.

We think it may not be amiss to insinuate as a thought of your own what bad policy it would be in the Maráthas to oblige us to take part with the Siddi, or with Salábat Jang and his brothers, whose arms are always open to receive us, as is evinced by the treaty the latter has lately concluded with Colonel Forde on the Coromandel Coast; but this affair must be very tenderly mentioned to avoid giving any just cause for disgust, and it is a step that nothing but ill-treatment will ever induce us to take.

Momin Khán will very probably arrive at Poona before you return, with whose affairs you are well acquainted, and of all that has passed between him and Nána, also between Nána and the President regarding him, we would have you use all the good offices in your power to expedite his business and return to Cambay, but at the same time to be very cautious that his affairs may not in any shape embarrass our Hon'ble Masters, and you are throughout your conduct to use your utmost address to conciliate all matters between Nána and our Hon'ble Masters, acting likewise with such suitable and becoming spirit as to let him and his Ministers see that though it is our real wish to continue on the best terms with them, yet that they may be convinced we shall always resent any insult or injury they may do us.

Mr. Thomas Mostyn is appointed to your assistance and is to be left at Poona if you judge it necessary, in which case it will be proper for you to procure a very intelligent and trusty linguist for him, and one who will have interest or resolution enough to go occasionally to Nána, Sadoba, or any other of the leading men.

Many of our Europeans having at times deserted to Poona, you are to take a proper method of informing them that they shall be pardoned if they will return hither in a reasonable time, and to convince them hereof the President will furnish you with a letter for that purpose, together with your credentials to Nána, and a letter of credit to advance you any money you may have occasion for.

Herewith we deliver you sundry articles to be presented to Nána, his relations and principal officers, as usual, and hope your endeavours for promoting the Hon'ble Company's interest at his Court will be attended with success.

We are,
Your loving friends,
RICHARD BOURCHIER.
CHARLES CROMMELIN.
THOMAS BYFELD.
BRABAZON ELLIS.
WILLIAM HORNBY.
WILLIAM ANDREW PRICE.
CHARLES WATERS.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

Bombay Castle,
19th August 1759.

P.S.—As we expect you will meet Dámáji at Poona, we would have you take an opportunity of intimating that we are willing to enter into an agreement with him that his vessels may no longer continue to annoy our trade, and if he makes any reasonable proposals, acquaint us therewith, but should he decline it, you are to declare to him that we shall take satisfaction for the depredations he has committed.

RICHARD BOURCHIER.
CHARLES CROMMELIN.
BRABAZON ELLIS.
WILLIAM HORNBY.
WILLIAM ANDREW PRICE.
CHARLES WATERS.
SAMUEL HOUGH.

Diary of the Proceedings of WILLIAM ANDREW PRICE *on his Embassy to Poona, commencing the 24th of August 1759.*

Friday, 24th August.—The Hon'ble the President and Council having been pleased to appoint me to proceed to Poona, at half-past eight this morning embarked on board the barge for Thána and at 1 P.M. arrived at Thána.

Saturday, 25th.—This morning waited upon Báláji Pant, to whom I delivered the President's letter and desired he would assist me with some *bigáris* (labourers) for transporting my baggage and three or four horses for my Parvoes and servants; I also desired he would despatch a letter to the Governor of Gallian (Kalyán) to afford me what assistance I might want there, which he promised me, and I then took my leave.

Sunday, 26th.—Having waited here two days without being able to procure any *bigáris*, (horses I have got two) and very uncertain when I may, at about 1 P.M. set out for Gallian in hopes of meeting with better success and arrived there at 5 P.M. But to my great mortification find the Governor gone to a distant part of the country to protect it from the Siddi's soldiers, who have, it seems, lately carried off a Bráhman wife and greatly alarmed the country.

Monday, 27th.—Sent my Parvoe with a present of a shawl to the acting person here to desire his assistance in procuring me some labourers.

Wednesday, 29th.—For these five days past such prodigious quantity of rain has fallen in these parts that it has entirely spoiled the roads, and the natives inform me it will be extremely difficult, if not impracticable, to pass the ghẚts or mountains; however as I have procured a few labourers, I determine to set out. Accordingly at noon proceeded on our journey and at 4 arrived at Kolgaon, where we lodged this night.

Thursday, 30th.—At ½ past 7 in the morning set out from Kolgaon and at 4 P.M. arrived at Neral through very bad roads, which greatly fatigued our people, and some of our coolies were quite overcome. I compute Kolgaon to be distant from Gallian twelve miles and Neral from Kolgaon eighteen.

Friday, 31st.—At 8 this morning continued our journey and at 5 in the evening reached Kampoli, a small village about twenty-five miles from Neral and close to the foot of Bor Ghát.

September.

Saturday, 1st.—At 10 in the morning set out from Kampoli and ascended the ghẚts, the top of which we reached about two, Here is a village called Khandála, where I met a sepoy

going to Bombay, to whom I delivered a letter for the President, advising of my being thus far on my journey. In the evening arrived at Kassgaon, where we lodged.

Sunday, 2nd.—At 8 this morning continued our journey, and about five in the evening arrived at Sarruti, where we were lodged in a very convenient house, formerly belonging to one Dabhara, a Marátha officer who was betrayed and murdered by Bájiráv, Nána's father.

Monday, 3rd.—At ½ past 7 this morning set out and at 4 arrived at Chintzwur (Chinchvad), where we lodged.

Tuesday, 4th.—At 7 this morning prosecuted our journey and at 11 arrived at Sumgon. This village is situated on the banks of the river Mular on one side as Poona is on the other. The river is fordable.

Despatched an officer with a guard to Nána with my compliments and to notify my arrival.

In the afternoon Bábáji Chitnis, Rámáji Pant's Secretary, waited upon me from Sadoba, with compliments and congratulation upon my arrival. One of Nána's relations being dead, he has not appeared in public these five days, and according to the Gentoo custom it seems he will not come abroad until a further elapse of that time.

Wednesday, 5th.—Hari Pant, a relation of Rámáji Pant, waited upon me and acquainted me that the Master of the Ordnance was coming to the opposite shore to receive and conduct me to my lodging, but it being late in the evening and on that account inconvenient to remove my baggage, &c., desired the officer would excuse my waiting upon him until to-morrow.

Thursday, 6th.—Hari Pant acquainting me that the Master of the Ordnance's brother was waiting for me on the other side of the river, passed over about five in the evening and was conducted to my lodging, a good commodious house in Somwar belonging to a Vanjára.

Friday, 7th.—This evening Govind Shivrám, one of Nána's principal ministers, paid me a visit, by whose advice I adjusted the presents to be made to Nána and his relations. The broad cloth I brought from Bombay is I find not at all acceptable, and having some plates and other things by me, it is thought proper to substitute them in its place. This present stands as follows :—

For Nána.

1 turban, 1 shawl Jummawar, 1 patca, 1 fine shawl, 1 kincob, 1 set of silver tea canisters in shagreen case, 1 silver tea kettle and lamp, 1 silver coffee pot, 1 large silver salver, 2 pieces velvet, 2 standing mirrors, and 1 organ.

For Sadoba.

1 turban, 1 shawl Jummawar, 1 patca, 1 fine shawl, 1 kincob, 1 gold chain, 1 musical clock, 1 fowling piece, and 1 pair of pistols.

For Rághoba.

1 turban, 1 shawl Jummawar, 1 patca, 1 fine shawl, 1 kincob, 1 gold chain, 1 fowling piece, and 1 pair of pistols.

For Nána's eldest son Vishvásráv.

1 turban, 1 Jummawar, 1 patca, 1 shawl, 1 kincob, and 1 gold chain.

For Nána's second son Mádhavráv.

1 turban, 1 Jummawar, 1 patca, 1 shawl, 1 kincob, and 1 gold chain.

Besides which Govind Shivrám tells me it will be proper to make some small presents among Nána's ministers and officers, but as it will not be necessary at my first visit, he will adjust with me hereafter. After giving me assurances of his friendship and readiness and inclination to serve me in any thing within the compass of his power, he took his leave.

Monday, 10th.—Nána appearing in public this day, I sent my compliments and condolence on his late loss, and desiring waiting upon him when it suited his convenience. This person returned with Nána's compliments, letting me know that he should be glad to see me to-morrow or next day, of which he would give me timely notice.

Wednesday, 12th.—At four P.M. I was waited upon by the officer who brought me to my lodging. He acquainted me that Nána was desirious of seeing me at his place and had sent him to conduct me thither. As I find this person is but in an inferior station, I demurred going with him, and insisted upon Govind Shivrám's waiting upon me, for which purpose I despatched a massenger to the Darbár. It growing late in the evening and Govind Shivrám not appearing and judging Nána might take amiss my objecting to the person he had deputed, I set out for his palace with an intent to acquaint him I did not esteem myself well treated. At the entrance I was met by Govind Shivrám and Rámáji Pant, the former acquainted me he was mounting his horse in order to wait upon me. I told him I was obliged for his courtesy, but it was rather too late to afford me any satisfaction; however as I find he was ordered to attend me, I think it needless to take any further notice of it. These two officers conducted me to the place of audience, where after waiting a few minutes, Nána, Sadoba, Rághoba and Nána's eldest son came from an inner apartment. After embracing them in the usual manner Nána seated me on his right hand. I then delivered the President's letter and the presents noticed in the preceding part of the diary. After some little time spent in the reception of his ministers and officers, Nána acquainted me that he had many affairs of importance to discourse with me on, but as it was my first visit and late, he would defer it to another opportunity. I told him I should be ready to wait upon him whenever it suited his convenience, and then took my leave. Nána, I observed, immediately retired to his apartments and left Sadoba to transact the current business.

Monday, 17th.—The Bráhmans having for some days been engaged in certain funeral rites on account of their deceased relations, I have not had an opportunity of seeing Nána; but those ceremonies being now over, I sent to signify my desire of waiting upon him. He let me know he should be glad to see me in the evening at Parvati. Waited upon Nána and after some discourse on indifferent matters he returned to his palace without entering upon any business.

Having had an opportunity of enquiring into the situation of affairs here with respect to our nation, I find the Bráhmans are greatly chagrined at their disappointment at Janjira and incensed against us for the assistance Bombay affords the Siddi, Rámáji Pant and the other Marátha officers employed on that expedition having, in order to justify their own conduct and screen themselves from Nána's resentment, informed him that had not the Siddi been supplied with necessaries from Bombay, they could have reduced him long ago. The success our troops met with in reducing the castle of Surat is I find another very mortifying stroke, as they pretend it was an unjustifiable proceeding in us to attack a place besieged by them, and that had we not interfered therein, the castle must have fallen into their hands. I have some reason likewise to think they have made overtures to the French of joining them against Bombay, provided they will assist them in taking Janjira from the Siddi. I think it proper to remark here that Muzafar Jang has been extremely polite in sending me presents of fruit, green *pulau*, &c., and made some advances towards an acquaintance, which I have readily accepted, for as he has lately had a misunderstanding with Nána, is withal a Musalmán, and has a corespondence with Pondicherry, he may be very serviceable in our affairs by furnishing me with intelligence.

Wednesday, 19th.—This evening I returned Govind Shivrám his visit and took an opportunity of pressing him to hasten my being despatched from this place, for as my coming here was at Nána's particular request, I was desirous to know what proposals he had to make to me, that

I might report them to the Hon'ble the President and Council. Govind Shivrám told me that Nána expected we should relinquish Surat castle and assist him against Rájápur. I fully set forth to him the absurdity of Nána's demands, as the expedition against Surat castle, to which he had not any right or pretensions, was undertaken for the repeated injuries we had received from the Siddi without being able to obtain any satisfaction, and at the pressing entreaty of the inhabitants, as well as Nána himself. That God had been pleased to crown our endeavours with success and that we were now fully authorized to keep possession by a proper grant from the Mogal. Govind Shivrám made light of these grants and said they were fictitious. I told him they were such as under whose sanction they frequently pretended to act themselves, and as providence had put the means in our hands for securing this acquisition, we were determined to make use of them against any person that might invade our just rights and privileges. That with respect to the Siddi, he had for a series of years been a friend and ally to the Hon'ble Company, and on many occasions showed his readiness to serve them to the utmost of his power, particularly in the last French War when he assisted them with men and everything else he was capable of; therefore it appeared to me a very doubtful point whether the Governor and Council would be prevailed upon to enter into hostile measures against him. That nevertheless I was ready to hearken to any proposals Nána had to make, and on my arrival at Bombay should make a faithful report of them. Govind Shivrám replied that unless we complied with the above demands they must come to a rupture with us. I signified to him our desire to live in perfect harmony and that our friendship might daily increase, and that the chief design of the Governor and Council in sending me hither was to cultivate and promote it; but that if they waged a war with us unjustly, they would find it the most unfortunate undertaking they ever embarked in, for reasons he could not be unacquainted with. This mollified him a little, and at length he relapsed into good humour, telling me to write to Rámáji Pant to procure me an audience. I then took my leave.

Thursday, 20th.—Agreeably to Govind Shivrám's advice sent a letter to Rámáji Pant as follows:—

"To Ra'ma'ji Pant.

After compliments.

From the first visit I paid Nána I have been in expectation that he would have sent for me to converse on such affairs as he might think proper; but since then eight days are elapsed without my hearing any further on the subject. I have received letters from the Governor of Bombay, wherein he writes me that he hopes I have near finished my business. I will be soon there, as he is in want of me. Therefore I desire you will think of opening the conferences that I may not lose my time here to no purpose."

Friday, 21st.—Rámáji Pant sent me word that he should wait upon Nána and procure me an audience.

Sunday, 23rd.—Hearing nothing further from Rámáji Pant of my visiting Nána, sent to him to desire the reason of its being so long deferred. He pretended to be as much surprised at Nána's behaviour as I could be, but begged I would have patience until to-morrow.

Monday, 24th.—This afternoon I was sent for to the Darbár, where Nána received me, and after entertaining me some time with a sight of his horses and discoursing on indifferent matters, he referred me to Govind Shivrám and Rámáji Pant, who had his orders to converse with me on all points. Accordingly Govind Shivrám opened the conference by setting forth the long friendship which had subsisted between the Hon'ble Company and the Maráthás, which they had manifested upon many occasions, particularly when it was expected the French would have attacked Bombay, they (the Maráthás) had offered a secure asylum to our merchants and sub-

jects. That in conformity to the agreement settled with Messrs. Byfeld and Spencer they had, in order to expel the Dutch from Rájápur, involved themselves in a war with the Siddi in expectation of our assistance, as he pretended that those gentlemen had verbally agreed that the friends and enemies of each Government were reciprocal and mutually bound to assist each other. That it was not to be doubted but Nána would reduce the Siddi, though it might require some time. Therefore he was desirous of and expected our assistance, and Govind Shivrám hoped I would seriously reflect what great advantages would result to the Hon'ble Company from a continuance of Nána's friendship, and how much their affairs might suffer if the behaviour of the Governor and Council on this occasion obliged him to a reverse conduct. I told Govind Shivrám that the desire of the Governor and Council for the preservation and increase of Nána's friendship was the principal motive for sending me hither to assure or convince him of it; that there was nothing we had so much at heart; but that with respect to assisting them against the Siddi it was an application so unexpected, that I would not make any reply thereto, not being furnished with orders to conclude anything on this subject; but that upon my arrival at Bombay I should represent it to the Governor and Council, and if Nána thought proper, he might send a person in my company to know their ultimate resolution. Govind Shivrám could not for a long time be persuaded that I was not authorized to enter into a negotiation upon this subject; but upon my convincing him that I was not, he went to make a report to Nána of our conference. After some time Govind Shivrám returned and acquainted me that as I was not authorized to conclude anything with respect to the Siddi, Nána would pitch upon some lucky day and despatch me. Govind Shivrám remarked to me how much it was in their power to distress our settlements upon the other coast and prevent our collecting the revenues there. I replied in the country phrase that we must submit to the will of fortune, observing to him, that it would not be for their interest to oblige us to enter into alliances with their declared enemies whose arms were open to receive us. The discourse on this subject being ended, I told him I had some affairs to mention to Nána, particularly in regard to his Pandit's obstructing the Hon'ble Company's people from collecting the revenues annexed to Surat castle at Bhávnagar and other outposts. He replied that they would hearken to nothing about Surat castle much less the revenues, and, in short, if I would not engage to assist to them against the Siddi, they would not enter upon any other business. I was then conducted to Nána and took my leave of him.

Wednesday, 26th.—Muzafar Jang sending me word that he had received some interesting advices from Goa, I desired he would favour me with a sight of any letters he might have from thence. He accordingly sent me one, as translated hereafter, and although the contents are not much to be relied on, yet as they carry an air of some probability, resolved to despatch it by an express to the Secret Committee:—

" To

THE HON'BLE RICHARD BOURCHIER, ESQUIRE,

PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR, AND

MEMBERS OF THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—The reason of my troubling you with this address is to enclose copy and translate of a letter delivered into my hands, which came from Goa, and although the contents are not entirely to be relied on, yet as they carry an air of some probability, I thought it my duty to forward them to you, and am very respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
WILLIAM ANDREW PRICE.

Poona, 26th September 1759."

Translate of a letter from Goa, dated the 27th August 1759.

A conspiracy has lately been discovered in Portugal. The Queen, who is daughter to the King of Spain, having no male issue but only a daughter intended to marry her to her nephew, a Prince of Spain, whom she accordingly brought privately into Portugal, having secured many of the Ministers and others to her party. On the other hand the King of Portugal designed to marry his daughter to his brother's son in order to secure the kingdom in the family, because it seems if the daughter married a foreigner the crown would revert to him. The King got intelligence of the Queen's nephew being in Portugal, upon which he secured many of the conspirators of the Queen's faction and executed them. Upon this the nephew fled and the Queen found means to get the King assassinated. After which she and her daughter embarked for Spain, where the intended marriage was solemnized, Goa and its dependencies being given for the daughter's dowry. Upon this the King of Spain entered into an alliance with the French and both are coming to Goa with eighty ships and forty thousand soldiers, besides mariners. This is what I heard at the Secretary's house when there were about twenty or twenty-two days of the monsoon remaining. The Viceroy upon this intelligence fortified the Agoad and Murmagoa with two hundred and fifty pieces of cannon and reinforced them with soldiers. He also sent for Captain Thomas Joseph, who had been employed at Poona, to go again and ask succour of Nána, to which he replied that as the Viceroy had not answered the proposals Nána made by him, he begged to be excused from going. Upon which another person ordered to proceed accompanied by ten horsemen and other attendants and with presents for Nána to a considerable amount.

Friday, 28th.—At a meeting I had this day with Govind Shivrám he pretended to lament the improbability of our continuing on friendly terms with Nána if the Governor and Council persisted in their resolution of not assisting him against the Siddi, whom Nána, he said, was anxious for reducing not so much on account of the fortress of Janjira or the revenues annexed to it, as its being their ancient country, the family for a great number of years having the Deshmukhi or collecting the tenths in their hands. Therefore he expected our assistance, which would lay him under an eternal obligation. And Govind Shivrám desired I would again reflect on the advantages or detriment that would accrue to the Hon'ble Company from Nána's friendship or enmity, concluding withal that surely some expedient might be thought on to induce us to assist them on the present occasion, desiring my sentiments thereon. I told him that the Siddi had for a number of years been our firm friend and ally, and, therefore, I concluded the Governor and Council would not act in a hostile manner against him without express orders from the Hon'ble Company or some very considerable advantages being made over to us by Nána. Govind Shivrám then desired to know what the Governor and Council would expect. I replied that as they were unacquainted with the proposals Nána might make, they had not authorized me to enter into any negotiation of this nature, nor could I well judge of their sentiments, but believed Nána's delivering over to the Hon'ble Company all the islands around Bombay, delivering up Gheria and relinquishing his share of the revenues of Surat might induce us to assist them on the present occasion. He seemed astonished at my proposal, more especially with respect to Sálsette, which, he said, they would never part with upon any consideration, as it was taken by Sadoba's father, Chimnáji Appa, at a great expense of blood and treasure. That nevertheless he would make a report of our conference to Nána, but as he and the Gentoos in general were engaged in preparations for the Dasara feast, nothing could be determined until that was over. I then hinted to Govind Shivrám that the Governor and Council were ready to relinquish fort Victoria on a proper equivalent being granted. He asked me what I judged would satisfy them. I replied the island of Karanja and its dependencies (which I

find yields an annual revenue of about Rs. 40,000), or the Maráthás delivering to us at Bombay, at their own expense, two thousand muráhs of batty every year. This he likewise promised to mention to Nána, and then I took my leave.

Sunday, 30th.—Nána sent me an invitation to a tent pitched without the town, where he entertained me with the combats of elephants, which lasted about three hours, and although I had much discourse with him on the affairs of Europe in general, yet he never once mentioned his reasons for inviting me to Poona. Indeed I have observed he refers all business to his first cousin Sadoba, who makes a report to him of his proceedings, which he generally confirms.

October.

Monday, 1st.—This being the feast of Dasara and by the Gentoos esteemed fortunate for taking the field, Nána sent us a present of a dress and an elephant to attend me, which I mounted and accompanied him about a mile without the town, where after making some religious ceremony he returned to his palace.

Wednesday, 3rd.—The feast of Dasara being over, sent my compliments to Nána to desire he would be pleased to signify his commands to me, or anything he had to propose. He referred me to Sadoba and Govind Shivrám who, he said, had his orders on this subject.

Thursday, 4th.—Sent to Govind Shivrám to signify Nána's having referred me to Sadoba and him for the despatch of such matters as he (Nána) had to propose, and as my stay here had greatly exceeded my expectation desired he would bring affairs to a conclusion as soon as possible. Govind Shivrám returned me an answer that he would do all in his power, but that the whole family being engaged in preparing an army to accompany Rághoba, Nána's brother, to Delhi, he imagined it would be some days before my business would come upon the carpet.

Sunday, 7th.—In a letter received this day from the President he enclosed one from Mr. Erskine to me, setting forth the difficulties the Chief and Factors at Surat meet with in collecting the revenues annexed to the castle which lay in the Parganás or Districts under the command of Nána and Dámáji, desiring I would use my endeavours to get them removed, and such orders issued as may prevent our meeting with any impediments in collecting our just dues in future.

Parganás or Districts which pay a Revenue to the Castle of Surat and for supporting the Fleet.

To the Castle.

	Rs.
Anklesar Pargana, under the command of Nána, the yearly income about.	12,000
Teemba do. under the command of Dámáji, the yearly income about	8,000
Verriow Kasba do. do. ...	8,000
Vissow and Couchud villages do. do. ...	2,000
	30,000
For supporting the fleet, Bullyseer Pargana, under the command of Dámáji, the yearly income about	24,000
	54,000

Mr. Erskine likewise informs me that when we took possession of the castle there was due from Anklesar Pargana the sum of Rs. 5,400 which was collected by Nána's officer Rágho Pandit, who alleged he paid one thousand thereof to some sepoys. The remaining

balance of Rs. 4,400 Mr. Spencer had demanded of him, but that he evaded payment under pretence that as the government of the castle was changed, he could not do it without Nána's orders. However he at length promised to comply upon an order being sent himfrom the Maráthás' Vakíl at Surat, which was accordingly done. But still he put it off under various and trifling pretences, at first demanding a half for himself and an acquittal for the whole on paying the other half. That at last he agreed to make good the arrears upon a present being given him of Rs. 1,500, alleging the Siddi had made him the same acknowledgment. That this demand being so exorbitant, Mr. Spencer would by no means consent to it, but out of regard to our friendship with the Maráthás and to prevent the pargana falling under distress was willing to give him a *sirpáv* to the value of Rs. 200 to 250. But he declined accepting it and persisting in his demand of Rs. 1,500. Mr. Spencer had dropt all further application to him until he heard from me, and hoped I should be able to procure Nána's orders for these arrears being paid to the Hon'ble Company and all impediments removed to our collecting the revenue of this pargana annexed to the castle in future.

Monday, 8th.—Sent to acquaint Dámáji that if he was at leisure I would do myself the pleasure of waiting upon him. He acquainted me he should be glad to see me to-morrow.

Tuesday, 9th.—Waited upon Dámáji, who received me in a very friendly manner. After some discourse I represented to him the depredations the officers of his fleet had made upon our trade at different times, which I was willing to believe was without his orders, and therefore hoped he would issue directions to prevent the like happening in future. I likewise observed to him, that as the Hon'ble Company had taken possession of Surat castle, there were some revenues annexed to it and for maintaining the fleet, which lay in the country under his command, concerning which I desired he would issue orders for our people collecting them as heretofore without obstruction; and as we were now become neighbours and interested in the welfare of the country about Surat, we hoped he would concur in such methods as would tend to our mutual advantage and that our friendship might daily increase. He desired I would send him a list of the parganás and he would give an answer thereto and also in regard to the fleet. I then took my leave.

Wednesday, 10th.—Sent Dámáji a list of the parganás near Surat under his command which pay an annual revenue to the castle and for supporting the fleet.

Thursday, 11th.—Govind Shivrám paying me a visit, I set forth to him the whole circumstance of Anklesar pargana, desiring he would procure Nána's order for the arrears due from thence to the castle of Surat being made good to us, and that we might not meet with any impediment in collecting this revenue in future. He told me that Nána was so much incensed at the English taking possession of that fortress, which he hoped to reduce himself, that he would hearken to nothing in regard to it, nor for the Hon'ble Company collecting the revenue annexed to it in the country under his command. I desired he would consider the reasonableness of our demand, we having the same right to collect it as the Siddi, and that if the Maráthás drove us to extremities we should send troops and distress the pargana, which would thereby be ruined, and both they and we become sufferers. To this he replied we might act as we thought proper. Before Govind Shivrám took his leave I asked him if Nána had come to any resolution with regard to exchanging fort Victoria or the other points I had mentioned to him. He told me he had not, and as the family were still engaged in preparing for Rághoba's departure, he imagined nothing would be concluded on here, but that Nána would send a person with me to Bombay to settle matters with the Governor. The people, whom I have employed to procure Dámáji's orders to his officers for collecting the revenues from the several parganás above mentioned under his command and for his fleet not molesting our trade, tell me

they have hopes of success. The greatest difficulty they meet with is with respect to the last article. It being uncertain, when I may have a conference with Nána or Sadoba, and also necessary to know their resolves in regard to Anklesar pargana and some other points recommended to me by the President, drew out the following articles, and after translating them into the Marátha language, sent them to Govind Shivrám in order for his delivering them to Nána or Sadoba:—

When the English took possession of Surat castle there was due to it from Anklesar pargana the sum of Rs. 5,400. This money was collected by Rágho Pandit, who says he paid out of it one thousand rupees to some sepoys. The remaining balance of Rs. 4,400 the English Chief of Surat sent to demand of him, but he evaded paying by alleging that as the government of the castle was changed he could not do it without Nána's orders. However he at length promised to comply upon an order being sent from his Vakil at Surat, which was accordingly done, but still he put it off under various and trifling pretences, at first demanding a half for himself and an acquittal for the whole on paying the other half; but at length he agreed to make good the arrears upon a present being made him of Rs. 1,500, alleging the Siddi had made him the like acknowledgment on the first year of his Government. This demand being so exorbitant Mr. Spencer did not think proper to consent to it. However out of regard to the friendship subsisting between Nána and the Hon'ble Company, and to prevent the subjects of that pargana falling under distress, Mr. Spencer was willing to present him with a *sirpáv* to the amount of about Rs. 200 or Rs. 250, but still he refused to comply with our just and reasonable demand. As the General of Bombay is sensible that this procedure is without Nána's knowledge, calculated only to satisfy the avaricious temper of the Pandit and obstruct our friendship, he hopes and expects that Nána will issue orders for our arrears being made good and to prevent all impediments in future.

A shibar belonging to Mahomed Saffee went to Jambusar with sundry merchandize to the amount of Rs. 4,937-1-0, and happening to ground, which is very common on those rivers, some people belonging to Nána Ruttan came and plundered her. Another shibar, belonging to the same merchant, was by stress of weather driven on shore at Suvarndurg, and the officer there took out of her 5,500 dollars and 26 venetians. The Governor requests that Nána will be pleased to issue orders for restoring the goods above mentioned or their value, together with the dollars and venetians.

A shibar belonging to a Bombay merchant coming with wood from Tigur was carried by the Siddi to Cousah (?), where he wanted to unload the wood and pay the owner for it, which he did not choose to consent to. In the interim the Marátha gallivats made an attack on that fort, seizing this shibar at the same time. Rámáji Pant at first ordered the *caranny* to be killed on suspicion of his landing at the Marátha batteries in the night time, but upon his proving that he did not go on shore until day light, he released him. Nevertheless Rámáji Pant delivered the shibar for the benefit of some wounded officers and sepoys. As Rámáji Pant had not any right to give away our property for the gratification of his people, the Governor desires Nána will be pleased to issue orders for the shibar being restored, or if that is now impracticable, that the owner may be satisfied in money.

Ever since the Maráthás took possession of the Portuguese country near Bombay the English had free liberty to export milkbush until lately it was stopped under pretence of its being wanted for the Marátha Sarkar; but as that country abounds with milkbush

sufficient for supplying the whole Hindustán Empire, the Governor desires Nána will give orders for our exporting it as usual.

The person whom I sent with the above articles acquaints me that at first Govind Shivrám absolutely refused to interfere therein, but after some expostulation promised to deliver them to Sadoba.

Friday, 12th.—I was sent for the Darbár, where I had a private conference with Sadoba, who opened it by setting forth the long friendship which had subsisted between their Government and the Hon'ble Company, and which it was their desire might daily increase, but that of late there was reason to doubt our sincerity therein, as the assistance Bombay afforded the Siddi and his people having free access thither, had hitherto prevented the Marátha forces from reducing Janjira; that our vessels had driven away their fleet from before Underi; that ever since they had possessed themselves of the Portuguese country in the neighbourhood of Bombay our trade had daily increased to the great emolument of the Company; that when the French were expected to have attacked our island they offered a secure retreat to our subjects and had a body of troops ready to join us if necessary; that in order to expel the Dutch from Rájápur and prevent their trade from passing into the Marátha dominions, conformable to the agreement settled with us, they had involved themselves in a war with the Siddi; therefore they hoped for our assistance which would lay them under an eternal obligation and be of infinite service to our affairs wherever they (the Maráthás) had any power or influence. Sadoba having finished his discourse, I replied, that the intent of the Governor and Council in sending me hitherto was partly at their request, and to obviate any malicious reports which we found had been spread to our prejudice. That with respect to the Siddi he had for a series of years been a friend and ally to the Hon'ble Company, and therefore it would have been cruel and unjust in us to have denied them access to our island, which was open to all who continued in amity with us. But that out of a tender regard to the Marátha friendship we had studiously avoided rendering him any other assistance; for had we been inclined to a reverse conduct, we could have executed it in so private and yet effectual manner as would have put it entirely out of their power ever to reduce Janjira. That it was not to be doubted but his officers not meeting with the success they assured him of, had, in order to exculpate themselves, endeavoured to lay the blame upon us, as was apparent from the circumstance of their fleet retiring from before Underi, which I asured him was occasioned by two cruizers being driven by the tide near their vessels, which weighed their anchors and fled without knowing from whence our cruisers came and to whom they belonged. I told him that we were sensible of the favour they offered us of a retreat for our subjects in case the French had attacked Bombay, and was going to reply to his proposal for joining them against the Siddi, but it being late, he said he would defer hearing what I had to say on that subject until next meeting. As Sadoba did not pretend to be displeased at our taking Surat Castle, I thought it a good opportunity to introduce the affairs of Anklesar pargana, which I mentioned accordingly; but he evaded entering upon this subject until he had my answer with respect to the Siddi. I then took my leave.

Saturday, 13th.—This morning about four o'clock Sadoba unexpectedly took the field, pitching his tent a little without the town. His sudden departure, it is thought, is occasioned by some advices received of the Mogals. Report says that Salábat Jang and Nizám Ali are likely to accommodate matters, and that the latter has a very powerful army.

Monday, 15th.—Dámáji sent me the orders I requested of him for the parganás or districts under his command paying the usual revenue to Surat Castle and for supporting the fleet; likewise an order to the commanding officer of his own fleet not to molest any vessels trading under the Hon'ble Company's protection.

Govind Shivrám tells me he has not yet been able to procure the several orders I requested, but that he has hopes of succeeding.

Tuesday, 16th.—This evening I was honoured with a visit from Nána; he stayed a little time and then desired I would accompany him to Parvati, a favourite pagoda of his, situated just without the town, upon an hill, which commands a very extensive prospect. After discoursing very familiarly with me on various subjects and remaining until dark, he returned to his palace.

Wednesday, 17th.—About two this afternoon Nána sent for me to his palace, where he entertained me with music of various kinds and different sets of dancing women, which lasted until dark, when I took my leave.

Sunday, 21st.—This afternoon I was sent for to Sadoba's tent, where Nána was present. He stayed but a little time and went to visit his brother Rághoba. Sadoba then entered into a long discourse with me, the bent of which was to induce the Governor and Council to assist them against the Siddi, which he said Nána hoped for from our friendship, but that if the island of Underi was of any service to us it should, when taken, be delivered up. As I found these offers so trifling, I acquainted Sadoba I was not authorized to conclude any thing on this subject. He pressed me to come to a determination, but finding I could not, he told me he would send one of his officers to Bombay to make some proposals to the President. I applied to Sadoba on the several articles noticed under the 11th instant, desiring he would issue orders accordingly. He replied that with respect to Anklesar pargana he was not sufficiently apprised by his officer at Surat of the nature of our demand, that he would make the proper enquiry, and if our claim appeared just, order the money to be paid. He gave the same answer in regard to the shibar plundered at Jambusar. That the money taken out of that wrecked at Sudvarndurg should be restored according to agreement, and that Rámáji Pant had orders for our exporting milk-bush as usual without impediment. I then took my leave.

Monday, 22nd.—This afternoon I was sent for to Nána's palace, where Nána was waiting to receive me. After some little time passed he acquainted me that having received many reports from his officers of the prejudice the English had been to his affairs, in particular with respect to Janjira besieged by his forces, by our assisting the Siddi and giving protection to his subjects, which otherwise they (his officers) alleged they could have reduced long ago, he had desired the President to send up a gentleman to clear up this matter, and that he was thoroughly convinced from the information of his officers of the conferences they had with me that the several reports which had been industriously raised to disturb our friendship were without foundation; that it was his desire to continue on the same friendly terms as before, of which he directed me to acquaint the President; that he should send one of his Ministers to him, whom he requested might be treated with kindness and civility. He then presented me with a horse and *sirpáv*. Before I took my leave I mentioned to Nána the several articles noticed under the 11th instant. He promised me that he would issue orders to Sadoba for everything being adjusted to our satisfaction. I likewise recommended the Naváb's affairs to his consideration and that he might be speedily despatched. He told me they should be soon terminated to his satisfaction, and Sadoba gave me the same assurances.

Tuesday, 23rd.—Set out from Poona at 12 this day and arrived at Bombay on Friday the 26th, at 8 P.M.

W. A. PRICE.

ENGLISH EMBASSY

TO THE

MARÁTHÁS IN 1767.

ENGLISH EMBASSY TO THE MARA'THA'S IN 1767.

PRESIDENT and COUNCIL'S instructions to THOMAS MOSTYN.

SIR,—It being judged expedient that a gentleman should proceed to Poona to converse with Mádhavráv on several points relative to our Hon'ble Masters' interest, we have thought proper to appoint you for this service, and shall now proceed to give you such instructions as may appear to us most suitable for enabling you to fulfil our wishes and expectations upon this occasion.

We have sundry claims upon the Marátha Government for depredations made by their subjects and the unwarrantable detention of our merchants' property in some of their ports. The late President frequently set forth to Madhavráv the necessity of his making good these losses, and actually received from him an order to that effect, addressed to Visáji Pant, who, however, has never paid any regard thereto, which you are therefore to represent to Mádhavráv in the strongest terms, and demand immediate payment thereof, urging (what we would then believe) that this is the chief motive for your now waiting on him, though, as you will perceive in the sequel, we have more interesting objects in view, which we flatter ourselves you will be able to carry into execution during your stay with him. In reply to the above demand Mádhavráv will probably urge the detention of Angria's sons as a plea for his order not having been complied with; but this we think you may easily answer by remarking their being kept under restraint was first owing to us, and the end seems better answered by their being here than with the Maráthás; that we have no views of interest by their residing with us, but on the contrary should be glad to ease our Hon'ble Masters of the expense they sustain on their account could we do it consistent with their honours; but as they have thrown themselves upon us, we cannot possibly give them up.

The growing power of the Maráthás is a subject much to be lamented, and has not failed to attract our attention, as well as that of the Presidencies of Madras and Bengal, inasmuch that nothing either in their power nor ours would be omitted to check the same as much as possible; but most unfortunately the treacherous and deceitful conduct of Nizám Alli, the Subha of Deccan, in joining his forces with those of Hyder Alli, with a view of invading the Karnátak, renders it highly advantageous to pursue a different plan by endeavouring all in our power to cultivate an alliance with them, at least for the present, and exerting ourselves to prevail on them to take part with us should we find it expedient to attack Hyder Alli's possessions upon this coast. We would therefore have you take the earliest opportunity of sounding Mádhavráv's inclinations in this respect, which the news of the late victory obtained by our army over the combined forces of Nizám and Hyder Alli will afford you a good opportunity of introducing. Should you find him favourably inclined towards us, you are then to speak more plain, and ask him what terms he has to propose in case our forces were to unite against those of Hyder Alli upon this coast. We imagine the possession of the kingdom of Bednur and Sounda would be an alluring bait and might induce him to give up many points he would not otherwise agree to. These, therefore, we should have no objections to relinquish to him, provided he in return would assign over to us Bassein and Sálsette with its dependencies, the Marátha share of the revenues of Surat, permit of our keeping possession of Purhill fort with its districts and dependencies, and houses and warehouses any where else we may think proper in that and the Sounda country, and grant us likewise an exclusive right to the pepper, sandalwood

and cardamoms produced there, also liberty to export annually from Mangalore to Tellicherry or Bombay, three hundred corges of rice free from the duty called *adlamy*, in the same manner as we now enjoy from Hyder Alli. The possession of Sálsette is the first and grand object we have in view, and therefore unless he will consent to this we shall not agree to relinquish Bednur and Sounda to the Maráthás, but on the contrary put some one else in possession of them, subject, however, to pay an annual *chauth* to the Maráthás, if they cannot otherwise be induced to take part with us in subduing them; but in this latter case care must be taken to stipulate that whatever expenses our Hon'ble Masters may sustain on the occasion shall be fully defrayed, or an equivalent given them for the same.

For the reason set forth in the beginning of the preceding paragraph it is with very great reluctance we find ourselves obliged to aim at forming an alliance with the Maráthás, or contributing in any shape to increase their growing power; but as they cannot possibly be idle spectators of the disputes subsisting between us and the Subha and Hyder Alli, who will naturally court their assistance, the fear of their listening to any proposals which may be made from them seems to render the same absolutely unavoidable, for they would obtain such a formidable addition to their strength by the junction of the Maráthás as would threaten very dangerous consequences to our Hon'ble Masters' affairs, especially on the other coast. The necessity therefore of forming an alliance with the Maráthás in the present situation of our affairs being thus pointed out, it behoves you, the moment you arrive at Poona, to obtain the best information you can as to the situation of their affairs, the disposition they may be in as to the disputes we are engaged in upon the other coast, and the operations Mádhavráv may have in view for the present season. The disputes which he has lately had with his uncle Rághoba, and which we have reason to believe are not perfectly accommodated, may possibly prevent his going upon any distant expedition, or possibly he may have some objects to keep him employed in the Bálághát country, or on the side of Berár or the Narbada, in either of which cases we shall be the less anxious about entering into an alliance with him, which nothing but necessity could lead us to think of, for it is principally the fear of his uniting with the Subha and Hyder Alli which renders us so desirous of it, although indeed the want of cavalry upon the other coast seems reason why it should be attempted. If therefore it should appear to you from the enquiries you may make on your arrival that an alliance will probably take place between us, you are, as a preliminary article, to demand what body of cavalry he can assist us with on immediate application, should Madras Presidency have occasion for any, and from the answer he gives to this, we shall be able to judge how far he is sincere in his intentions of assisting us.

You frequently advise us of your proceedings, and likewise despatch messengers to the President and Council at Madras as soon as you are at a certainty what part the Maráthás will act, and give them any other intelligence you may judge it material for them to be informed of.

Both Mádhavráv and Rághoba have lately sent persons to the President with a present and assurances of friendship and regard. We know not whether either of them has any particular point in view, but are inclined to think they have, particularly Rághoba. You will therefore encourage any advances which may be made to you by him, so as if possible to draw from him some proposals, in which, should you succeed, evade any direct answer by telling him you shall communicate the same to us, and wait our directions on the subject. It is said the difference mentioned above, to have subsisted between him and his nephew, has been accommodated; but there is reason to think their reconciliation is far from a cordial one, of which, however, we should be glad to be certainly informed, and also whether there is any other family difference of consequence sufficient to affect their military operations. Of this and every thing else

which can in the least tend to give us any insight into the connections or designs of the leading men among the Maráthás you are to exert your utmost address to obtain the best information in your power and give us the earliest intelligence of it.

Should Mádhavráv contrary to our wishes and expectation have listened to any application which may have been made him from the Subha or Hyder Alli previous to your arrival, and in consequence supplied them with men to act against us, you are to set forth in the strongest terms the bad consequences which may ensue to his affairs in this neighbourhood by such a conduct, as he cannot but be sensible it is in our power to deprive him at any time of a very considerable revenue, and in other respects greatly injure him by this and such other means as may occur to you upon the spot. We hope even should a force be set out that it will be in your power to induce him to recall it, which will be of the utmost importance to our affairs upon the Koromandel Coast.

It is possible Mádhavráv may on this occasion mention our sending Mr. Fletcher with the "Success" ketch and "Fox" gallivat to Janjira. In such case you will acquaint him with our motives for it, and signify at the same time that we cannot, consistent with the orders we have from Europe, suffer any one but Siddi Yacoob to possess that fort.

A list of sundry articles intended for presents is herewith delivered you; that intended for Rághoba, we would have you send to him at Násik (where we understand he now is) by Mr. Charles Brome, who is ordered to accompany you as your Assistant, and instruct him very particularly to attend to any representations Rághoba may make to him, and indeed in all your negotiations as well with him as with Mádhavráv you are to endeavour to let any proposals come from them if possible.

A copy of the small cipher is herewith delivered you lest you should judge it necessary at any time to make use of it; in your correspondence with the President and Council at Madras it will be highly proper.

Rámji Parvoe is ordered to attend you as a linguist, and the necessary number of sepoys also accompany you.

You are to keep a diary of your proceedings to be delivered to us on your return, and we shall expect frequently to hear from you, during your absence; we would not have you do any thing conclusive without our previous sanction.

We enclose copies of different treaties with the Maráthás, and of our late correspondence with gentlemen at Madras, that you may have recourse thereto occasionally, and as you are fully acquainted with our sentiments, we have only sincerely to wish you success, and are,

Your loving friends,

Bombay Castle, 18th November 1767.

THOMAS HODGES.
PETER ELVIN WRENCH.
JOHN GWIN.
DANIEL DRAPER,
JAMES RYLEY.
RAWSON HART BODDAM.
BENJAMIN JERVIS.
THOMAS MOSTYN.
NATHANIEL STACKHOUSE.
S. MATCHAM.

DIARY of the Proceedings of THOMAS MOSTYN on his Embassy to POONA, commencing the 19th of November 1767.

Thursday, 19th.—The Hon'ble the President and Council having been pleased to appoint me to proceed to Poona at once, this afternoon embarked on board the Bandar Boat for Panvel. At ¼ past 5 passed Belápur Fort, situated at the entrance of Panvel river, when the Commanding Officer saluted me with two guns and trumpets. A gallivat meeting me some distance from the entrance of the river, conducted the boat a great part of the way up.

At 10 P.M. arrived at Panvel, where I was received with great politeness by Dádu Pant, the Second in Command, the Havildár Lakshman Pant being indisposed, and conducted by him to a lodging provided for my reception.

Friday, 20th.—This morning a letter arriving here from Mádhavráv for the President, immediately despatched a country boat with it. The Havildár paying me a visit this morning I requested he would as soon as possible assist me with *bigáris* for transporting my baggage and three or four horses for my Parvoes and servants. The former he told me he would collect together by to-morrow morning, but could not procure horses, as the greatest part of what belonged to that place were gone to a fair at Pandharpur, but would instead thereof provide me with bullocks.

Saturday, 21st.—At 10 this morning set out from Panvel, and not being able to get *bigáris* sufficient, I was under the necessity of hiring eleven bullocks, with which I agreed to proceed to Poona, and about 5 in the evening arrived at a chowki called Chowk, close to Tupegaon, where we lodged this night. The distance from Panvel to Tupegaon I compute to be six kos long.

This evening I despatched the following letter to Mádhavráv, as I am informed after getting to the top of the ghåts I shall find it difficult to procure *bigáris* to carry my baggage:—

"To

MA'DHAVRA'V.

After compliments.

Agreeably to what the Governor of Bombay wrote you some days ago I think it proper to acquaint you thus far on my way to Poona, and although I have not yet experienced the want of *bigáris* to carry my necessaries, yet to obviate my meeting with any delays after my arrival upon the ghâts induces me to trouble you with the address and to request you will send the necessary orders for my being supplied with as many as I may have occasion for, that I may the sooner pay my personal respects to you. I hope God will keep you many years.

Chowki, 21st November 1767."

Sunday, 22nd.—At 8 this morning continued our journey, leaving the Subhedár to bring up such part of our baggage which for want of *bigáris* I could not take with me, and at 4 P.M. reached Kámpoli, a small village about six kos from Tupegaon and situated at the Bor Ghát.

Monday, 23rd.— At 10 this morning the Subhedár with that part of my baggage left behind at Tupegaon having joined me set out from Kampoli and ascended the ghâts, the top of which we reached at ¾ past one. Meeting a pattamar[1] upon the ghâts going to Bombay, delivered him a letter for the President advising of my being thus far on my journey.

At half-past two halted at Khandála and at 5 in the evening arrived at Dongargaon, where we lodged this night. The distance from Kampoli to Dongargaon is six very long kos, *viz.*, three to the top of the ghâts and three from thence to this place.

Tuesday, 24th.—At 2 P.M. continued our journey, waiting till this time before our baggage came up; and for want of *bigáris* are obliged, Mádhavráv's orders, as they tell me, not being arrived, to leave part of my baggage again at this place, and did not arrive at Sewney, the next

[1] All through the old records the word pattamar is used for a massenger as well as for a boat.

stage, until 7 this evening, where we were very indifferently lodged in a house belonging to the Government.

Wednesday, 25th.—At 10 this morning set out from Sewney, being determined to proceed to Wankra village within three kos from Poona, and there to stay until the whole of my people and baggage should come up; at which place I arrived about 4 this afternoon; the distance from Sewney to Wankra about 7 or 7½ kos.

Thursday, 26th.—This morning a harkára arrived here from Poona with orders from Mádhavráv to the different villages to provide me with *bigáris*, &c.; immediately despatched him to Sewney, at which place the greatest part of our baggage remains.

At noon Rámji Parvoe sent me word he had been some days at Poona waiting my arrival and desired to know when he might expect me; returned the sepoy to tell him that as soon as my baggage, the greatest part of which was at Sewney, came up, I should continue my journey, but not until then, and gave him orders to acquaint the Darbár with my intentions.

Friday, 27th.—No appearance of our people. This morning sent back the fifty hamáls to bring up our baggage.

Saturday, 28th.—At 3 P.M. the Subhedár with the whole of our baggage arrived, but being of opinion it was too late for me to set out for Poona, despatched the *bigáris*, &c., with our baggage, also Bábu Parvoe with the Subhedár to acquaint the Darbár of my having been at this place. Three days waiting for my necessaries, which being now come up, I shall set out early to-morrow, and expect a person of consequence to meet me at a convenient distance from Poona to conduct me to whatever place might be provided for my reception.

Sunday, 29th.—At 8 this morning set out from Wankra; at 11 halted at a pagoda called Ganesh Khind within one kos of Poona. After waiting here about half an hour Rámáji, Mádhavráv's Head Chitnis, arrived properly attended with his master's compliments, and told me he was sent to attend me to my lodgings. Set out for Poona, and at half past 12 arrived at Govind Shivrám's garden, which had been provided for me. Rámáji Chitnis then took his leave, ordering one of his men to wait here to obey any commands I might have.

Monday, 30th.—This morning Govind Shivrám having before sent his man to apprise me of his coming paid me a visit and after the usual compliments had passed made a tender of his services, which I readily accepted of, he having obligingly adjusted the presents necessary to be made at my first audience (which I requested might be as soon as possible) as hereafter entered, and repeating his desire of serving me he took his leave, assuring me it should be as soon as possible.:—

For Mádhavráv.

1 horse, 1 clock, 1 gold attardáni, 1 smelling bottle, 2 shawls, 1 piece of kincob, 1 piece of zurbuff, 1 fowling piece, 1 pair of pistols, 1 dress complete, 4 yards of green velvet, 6 yards of rose colour velvet, 2 horse whips, 8 bottles of rose attar, and 4 yards of gold lace.

For Nárurav.

1 gold chain, 1 dress complete, 1 silver cow, 2 shawls, 2 pieces of kincob, and 1 horse whip.

December, Tuesday, 1st.—This morning sent to Govind Shivrám to know if I was this day to have the honour of having an audience. He returned for answer that to-day being an unlucky one *Veiti pot (Vyati pát)*[1] he thought it would be better to defer it to a better day. Also sent my compliments to the Darbár with the same message, and received from Mádhavráv an answer to the same effect, adding that as the English were his friends he wishes our first meeting be on a lucky day and requested I would defer it till Thursday, Wednesday being also not a good one.

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[1] *Vyati pát* is a day on which a certain conjunction of the constellations called *Vyati pát* is supposed to portend evil and is therefore considered a bad day for transacting important business.

The young Rája of Bednur, whom Mádhavráv last year made a state prisoner to Poona, sent his chopdár to me with his compliments, acquainting me he was at this time about sending his Agent to Bombay, but hearing of my arrival here should defer it and wished to see me, having several points of importance to converse with me on. Returned his man with my compliments, telling him that as my receiving his visits before having paid my compliments at the Darbár might prejudice his interest, I requested he would defer until then.

Thursday, 3rd.—Agreeably to what Mádhavráv sent me word on Tuesday, this afternoon at 4 o'clock he sent to acquaint me he was ready to see me and had sent Khanderáv (son of Davlatráv) to attend me to the Darbár. At the entrance of the second court I was met by Rámáji Chitnis and conducted to the place of audience, where after waiting a few minutes Mádhavráv appeared, and the usual compliments being passed, I presented him the President's letter and the presents agreeably to what I had settled with Govind Shivrám. After sitting a convenient time and the customary compliments over, I took my leave, at the same time requested he would appoint an early day to acquaint me with his motives for desiring a gentleman might come to Poona.

Saturday, 5th.—This morning returned Govind Shivrám's visit, when I again requested of him that he would procure me a second audience from Mádhavráv, that I might be acquainted with what business he had requested of the Governor that a gentleman from Bombay might be sent to him for, and that I might acquaint him with our demands, when he informed me I must have patience until the 7th, there being a number of weddings in town to-day and to-morrow, and particularly one at his own house, which prevented his attending till then to any thing else.

Sunday, 6th.—In the evening despatched two sepoys to Bombay with the following address to my superiors :—

"To

The Hon'ble THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,
President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—On the 21st ultimo having procured *bigáris* and bullocks for transporting my necessaries and people, set out from Panvel, and being informed I should in all probability find it very difficult to get labourers after my ascending the gháts, without Mádavráv's orders, the same evening wrote him, requesting he would send the necessary ones to prevent my meeting with any delays on the road, notwithstanding which, though he had complied with my request, it was the 29th at noon before I reached Poona. The next morning Govind Shivrám paid me a visit, and making me a tender of his services, I desired his assistance in adjusting the presents necessary to be given at my first audience, the which I particularly desired might be as soon as possible and which he promised the first. I also sent my compliments to the Darbár with the same message, when Mádhavráv returned for answer that esteeming the English his friends he should be glad to see me on a lucky day, but this and the 2nd being both unlucky ones desired my visit might be deferred until the 3rd. Agreeably to which in the afternoon he sent me word he should be glad to see me, and had sent Khanderáv to conduct me to him. I accordingly went, and after the usual salutation presented him the President's letter and presents, with which he seemed pleased. After discoursing some time on indifferent matters, I requested he would appoint an early day for my waiting on him on business, when he replied that this being my first visit he would defer entering on any at present, but it should not be long. This morning having returned Govind Shivrám's visit, again repeated the same request. He told me, there being a number of weddings amongst the principal people and particularly one at his own house, no business could be entered upon, until they were over, which would take two or three days.

Ever since my arrival I have used my utmost endeavours to obtain the best information I can as to the situation, disposition and intentions of the Marátha Court, and I flatter myself they have been attended with some success.

Mádhavráv incensed to it by his mother Gopikábái had certainly intentions of seizing his uncle Rághoba and keeping him a prisoner in his last visit to him, but Rághoba getting notice of it, refused having an interview with him and acquainted him, he should be upon his defence unless he met him alone. Sakhárám Bápu, Mádhavráv's Diván and Rághoba's secret friend, then interfered and brought about a reconciliation at least for the present, and Rághoba, on condition he does not ever again interfere in the affairs of Government, is permitted to hold possession of the forts and countries of Trimbak, Dulup, Cowni, Cuning Kerndah and Puta with seven others of little note, but all situated in the district of Trimbak, the yearly revenue of which is computed at thirteen lákhs. Mádhavráv also gave Rághoba security for the payment of twenty-five lákhs in three months to discharge the arrears due to his army. This reconciliation is by many judged will last no longer than until Rághoba is again in want of cash or Mádhavráv's affairs take a different turn, for they now seem in a flourishing condition. However, Mádhavráv is for this year at least secure from any disturbance from this quarter.

Tukoji Holkar, Náru Shankar, the son of Vitthal Shivdev by name Shiváji Vitthal, and Mahádji Sindia, commander of about fifty thousand horse, are the officers appointed for the part of Hindustán. The three first are at present here, nor are their forces yet joined; but it is said they will set out in a very few days, as by advices arrived two days past the Marátha forces there under Mahádji Sindia have met with a small defeat by the Jats.

A few days before my arrival here Gopálráv Anandráv Rástia, Bápuji Náik, Visáji Pant Binni, and Náruráv Ghorpade with ten pieces of cannon and fifty horse set out for Miraj with orders there to collect their force, which together will consist of twenty-four thousand horse, and then proceed to the forts of Seray, Mudgurry, &c., which Mádhavráv took last year from Hyder Alli, to put them in a proper posture of defence, where they are to wait for further directions. The Marátha Court is, from all I can learn, undetermined what part they shall act, and are laying by to see what turn affairs in the Karnátak will take before they come to any resolution. For by letters arrived yesterday evening from Nizám Alli's camp at Turpatur Allambury, six kos from Devgad, in twenty-four days, it is mentioned that several messages and letters have passed between him and Mahomed Alli Khán, but their purport has not transpired; that the Nizám is in large arrears to his army and has applied to Hyder Alli for money to pay them, for which purpose the latter has despatched people to Mysore, not having sufficient with him; that visits have been exchanged and the Nizám presented Hyder Alli with his colors a *sirpáv* and *koolgur* and received in return fifty thousand rupees, two elephants with some diamonds and pearl, the whole amounting to a lákh; that they have agreed to collect all the force in their power and make another grand effort in the Karnátak, in which, if they fail, then to endeavour to make peace on the best terms they can procure. But the pattamars who brought the advices and with whom I have talked, inform me that Mahomed Alli has offered the Nizám any money he may want to send away Hyder Alli; but he (Hyder Alli) does not choose to go until, as they say, he has had satisfaction of Mahomed Alli; that Nizám Alli's camp was when they came away eighty thousand strong horse and foot and Hyder Alli's thirty thousand: they also inform me that they have both sent agents, who are on the road with large presents to Mádhavráv and Rághoba (this news was current in town before the pattamars arrived), and would reach Poona in about twelve days. I likewise heard from the shroffs in town two days ago that Mahomed Alli had offered the Nizám fifty lákhs of rupees and ten thousand horse to assist him against Hyder Alli, and Hyder Alli has offered him a crore,

provided he (the Nizám) would put him in possession of the Karnátak. How true the pattamars' and shroffs' intelligence may be I cannot at present say, but on all hands it is agreed they are treating on a peace; however your Honour and Council may rest assured my best efforts shall be exerted to gain the most perfect intelligence with respect to Mádhavráv's intentions and views towards the Karnátak, and of the force gone that way under the command of Gopálráv.

It is confidently reported here that Mádhavráv himself intends visiting his forts on the sea coast from Surat to Gheria, and the Bráhmans have fixed upon the five days of their next month on the 25th instant for his taking the field; but I am very apprehensive his principal motive is Janjira, for I have heard he is much chagrined at the disappointments he has met there, and imagine it will be the first point he talks on at our next meeting. However his march into the Konkan will greatly depend on the situation of affairs in the Karnátak, regarding which I shall make it my business to send him the first favourable opportunity.

Trimbakráv Mama, uncle to Sádoba, who went two years ago on pilgrimage to Benares and Prayág (Allahabad), is arrived at Malwa on his way back to Poona, and has written Mádharáv, that he had an interview with the English at both places, and has proposed to enter into alliance with them to join their force with the Maráthas' and Suja Davla's to expel the Jats, Rohillas and other petty Rájas to the Northward. This letter was received here about twenty days ago. When Trimbak arrives I shall make particular enquiry and advise your Honour and Council fully concerning it.

It is with concern I hear it publicly reported here that our troops have been repulsed at Rájápur and that an officer with near one hundred and fifty men killed and wounded.

As soon as I have entered on business with the Darbár and can find which way they seem inclined I propose complying with your Honour and Council's orders in sending Mr. Brome with the present to Rághoba.

I also intend despatching a pattamar to Madras to-morrow advising them of such occurrences as may be worthy their notice.

Poona, the 5th December 1767.

I remain, very respectfully,
Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
THOMAS MOSTYN."

Monday 7th.—A sepoy by name Mahomed Khán having been of great service to me in my journey from Panvel in procuring *bigáris,* &c., on his returning home this day made him a present for his services of three yards of coarse cloth, a turban and four rupees; also three yards of coarse cloth to a sepoy that attended him.

In the afternoon paid Nána Fadanavis a visit, when I took an opportunity of mentioning to him my having been here nine days, and four had elapsed since I had my first audience without being acquainted with what business the Ráv had with me. I therefore requested he would procure me a second audience, and that soon, that we might go, which he promising to do, I took my leave.

Tuesday, 8th.—Finding that Rámáji Chitnavis from what I can learn from Govind Shivrám is the person who can procure me an audience, sent to him this morning to desire he would use his endeavours to get me one as soon as possible: he sent me word that this day being a fast, Mádhavráv was obliged to go to a pagoda at Theur; I therefore must defer visit until to-morrow.

Wednesday, 9th.—This morning received a letter from Rámáji Chitnavis that Mádhavráv being engaged in despatching Tukoji Holkar to Hindustán it would be impossible for me to have an audience this day as his whole time would be taken upon that business.

Thursday, 10th.—This being the day appointed for my having an audience and waiting some time in expectaion of being sent for, Mádhavráv sent for Rámáji acquainting him that as Govind Shivrám who, he was desirous, should be present at our meeting, was engaged in giving a dinner to the Bráhmans on account of his wedding, he must defer seeing me until to-morrow.

Friday, 11th.—Agreeably to what Rámáji Chitnavis sent me word yesterday Mádhavráv this evening sent word by a Chopdár that he should be glad to see me. Accordingly I went and found Sakhárám Bápu, Govind Shivrám, Moroba Fadanavis, and Rámáji Chitnis present at the Darbár. After the usual compliments I again set forth that at his request by Náru Pant, and considering the ancient friendship subsisting between us, the Governor and Council have complied with his request for a gentleman being sent to him, and that I was ready and desirous to know what he had to say, and that I would afterwards lay before him my demands on behalf of the Company and our merchants, which my superiors would by this time expect I had finished. He replied that on account of their long friendship with us and no English gentleman having been here for some years was one reason why he was desirous of it, as a proof of the former good harmony still continuing; and then to avoid giving me an answer to my question asked me the news of the Karnátak which I acquainted him with, when he confirmed what I had told him, and added that he had four days ago received letters from Madras and Mahomed Alli Khán requesting his assistance, and that they had sent an agent by name Nágojiráv (who the pattamar left on the road) to confer with him regarding it; they also say they had written to Bombay to send a gentleman here concerning the same business. I replied I was ready to hear any proposals he had to make, the which I would faithfully report to my superiors. Instead of giving me an answer he asked if the orders of one Presidency would be obeyed by the other. I told him they were distinct Governments, but all serving the same masters and mutually bound to assist each other in every thing regarding their common interest. His reason for asking was, he said, as although he was upon the most amicable footing with the English at Bombay and bound thereto by treaty, yet no regard is paid thereto by the English at the other two Presidencies, that until Nágojiráv arrived he would defer saying anything regarding the affairs in the Karnátak. Then told him as he had thought proper himself to open the subject, I thought it my duty to enquire as they would determine on nothing, for what so large a force had lately been despatched under the command of Gopálráv towards the Karnátak. He assured me they were only sent as usual to collect the revenues, which could not be done without a force.

Saturday, 12th.—This morning I paid Govind Shivrám a visit purposely to find out if possible the views of the Darbár. After some discourse, I told him it would be saving much time, if they would let me know what proposals they had to make with regard to what passed yesterday, that I might have proper directions from Bombay by the time Nágojiráv arrived. He very openly told me they should come to no resolution until not only Nágojiráv arrived but also the agents from the Nizám and Hyder Alli, and those proposals that appeared most for their interest they should without hesitation accept of. I told him I was firmly persuaded that interest was their prevailing system of politics in spite of all ties, and asked him what great things could they hope for from the proposals or even friendship of either the Nizám or Hyder Alli, who had both given too many and late proofs that no treaties were binding longer than until they were in a capacity to break them, which they must be convinced by experience was not the case with the English, who paid the strictest attention to carry out what they had ever entered into. He replied he could not say what part they should act until they had heard what the different

agents had to say. There were three ways for them to pursue, and that which appeared most advantageous they should embrace: 1st, to join Nizám and Hyder Alli against Mahomed Alli and the English; 2nd, to join Mahomed Alli and the English against the Nizám and Hyder Alli; 3rd, to persuade the Nizám to remain neutral and join the English and Mahomed Alli Khán against Hyder Alli. The first, he confessed, required consideration; for though the Nizám was in friendship with them, yet he had in part broken it by supporting their professed enemy Hyder Alli. From the whole of our conversation and by what I can learn they will gladly accept of our terms, but as they will determine on nothing until Nágojiráv arrives, I judged it prudent not to open myself.

Sunday, 13th.—Finding Sakhárám Bápu, Mádhavráv's Diván, to be a person of great weight and influence, and that he takes his advice upon all occasions, judged it necessary to send my compliments to him, and if he was unengaged I would wait on him. He sent me word that the three ensuing days he should be engaged in some ceremonies relating to his pagoda, after which he should be very glad to see me.

Monday, 14th.—This morning I was informed that by letters from Gambáji Náik, of Márgashirsha Shuddha Pádva, received four days ago, there is intelligence that the Nizám is quartered at Kaveripattan, and has had an engagement with Mahomed Alli Khán at Ganjikot, in which being worsted had made peace with Mahomed Allí, and that Hyder Alli had given to the Nizám the forts of Matta Cootar, Devnagar and Chaddytoor in the jurisdiction of Sarra, and Mahomed Alli Khán twenty-four lákhs of rupees, besides fixing his annual tribute at fourteen lákhs, and the three were now united. The foregoing intelligence is certainly written in a letter, copy of which I have procured; but it does not appear reasonable to me that the gentlemen at Madras, considering their success, will now come to terms of accommodation with Hyder Alli. The Nizám and Hyder Alli's friendship seems to be upon a slippery footing, and there is a probability, from what I can learn, that Mahomed Alli will be able to draw off the Nizám. In such case our alliance with the Maráthás will be the less necessary.

Wednesday, 16th.—This day letters from Delhi, in 27 days, advise that the Mogal Alli Gouwar, who is at Elleabaz (Allahabad?), has written to Calcutta for some forces to join him against Agra fort. They also say that Joarsing, Rája of the Jats, and Bijaysing the Márwár Rája are joined and will be able to bring into the field sixty or seventy thousand horse. They are endeavouring to prevail on Bundikot and Mádhavsing of Junagar to enter into alliance with them with an intent to come this way. This news I imagine is the reason why Tukoji Holkar, Náru Shankar and Bápuji Shivdew, who some days ago had their audience of leave and were despatched for Hindustán, have not yet left Poona, but are requesting a larger force, as they think the twenty thousand horse they are empowered to take, besides sixteen thousand now there, will not be sufficient to withstand their united forces.

Thursday, 17th.—Received my superiors' commands of the 11th instant with sundry papers as follows:—

"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire.

Sir,—We have received your letter of the 5th instant, and observe with much satisfaction the friendly reception given you by Mádhavráv, from which we are led to draw favourable conclusions as to the success of your negotiation.

We now enclose you extract from a letter received the 10th instant from the President and Council at Fort St. George, also of the memorandum therein mentioned to be given by them to

Nágojiráv, the person deputed by the Naváb of Arcot to wait on Mádhavráv. The memorandum shows what the gentlemen at Madras are desirous of in respect to the Maráthás, and you will therefore exert yourself to promote their views by endeavouring to prevail on Mádhavráv at least to remain neutral, if you cannot persuade him to take part with us, in the present disputes in the Karnátak. The Naváb's Agent will of course wait on you and attend to any particulars you may judge it necessary from time to time to point out to him, as well for his master's as our interest.

We also now enclose you copy of a letter from Mr. John Stracey for your notice, and shall communicate any other intelligence we may receive that we think can be of use for you to know.

We are sorry to acquaint you there was some foundation for the report you mention of our force at Janjira being repulsed, as Captain Hopkins with the men under his command were obliged, in attempting to land, to retreat again on board ship, but with the loss only of one man killed and a very few wounded. The bad success of this attempt obliged us to send down a further reinforcement, under the command of Major Gavin, who, we have the pleasure to acquaint you, made good his landing, and obliged the enemy to fly with great precipitation on the 3rd instant. We have directed them to pursue their advantage, and take possession of Mutgur Fort, which, from what Major Gavin represents, we cannot doubt they will very shortly accomplish.

We are,
Your loving friends,
THOMAS HODGES.
PETER ELWIN WRENCH.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JAMES RYLEY.
RAWSON HART BODDAM.
BENJAMIN JERVIS."

Bombay Castle,
11th December 1767.

Extrct of a letter from the Hon'ble the PRESIDENT *and* COUNCIL *at Fort St. George, dated the 13th October 1767.*

As we conclude Hyder Alli and the Nizám would have used every means of gaining Mádhavráv to their assistance, we have judged it expedient that a person should be sent to him from the Naváb, who is also furnished with some memorandum from us. His Vakil was very desirous that a member of the Board from hence should proceed to his master, but the great distance to Poona and the troubles in the country prevented our complying with his proposals; but we at the same time informed him that as Poona was situated near Bombay, we were convinced your Honor and Council would have no objection to deputing a proper person to Mádhavráv to settle the terms of friendship with him.

We enclose you herewith a copy of the memorandum given to Nágojiráv, which may serve as heads to the instructions to the person you may think proper to send to Mádhavráv.

(A True Copy)
ANDREW RAMSAY,
Secretary.

Memorandum for Na'gojira'v.

He is to represent to Mádhavráv, in very strong and proper terms, the value of the English friendship, the fidelity they have shown and the service they have rendered to the king, to the Naváb Wala Jah, to Shuja-ud-Dowla, and all those who have sought after their friendship. He is also to represent their power, force and resolution in war, which was lately shown against Nizam Alli and Hyder Alli, whose united force had unjustly entered the Karnátak, and though very numerous, and strongly posted, was beaten in an instant with the loss of their cannon, &c., and the whole must have been taken had they not escaped in the night.

That though the English are thus powerful, they desire nothing so much as to live in peace with their neighbours; but Hyder Alli is so ambitious and troublesome that he has not only taken all the country from his neighbours, who had not force to oppose him, but has usurped the Government of the Mysore country and imprisoned his master. It is therefore proper such a disturber should be rooted out, and as Mádhavráv by means of Hari Pandit some time ago and at present by another Vakil has expressed an inclination to the same purpose, the English are ready to exert themselves in so glorious an undertaking, provided Mádhavráv will, at the same time, attack and conquer the country of Bednur jointly with the English from Bombay.

If the King Sháh Allum should send one of his sons, or any of the royal family, to govern the Deccan, the English will be ready to pay him due respect and support his authority, and hope Mádhavráv will do the same.

In case Hyder Alli is rooted out and the Rája's family restored to the Mysore Government, it is but reasonable that the *chauth* should regularly be paid to the Maráthas, and that the English should be reimbursed the expenses they may meet, and the Naváb Wala Jah have the countries of Dindagul and other places formerly belonging to the Karnátak, on which it is hoped the Maráthás will renounce all claim of *chauth*.

In consideration of the assistance the English may give Mádhavráv to conquer the Bednur country and of the friendship they engage to show him on all occasions, it is hoped he may be induced to grant the islands of Sálsette and Bassein to the Company's Agents at Bombay, which will be the means of great benefit hereafter to both parties, and the gentlemen there will doubtless give anything reasonable for that favour.

It may be hinted to Mádhavráv that when once a strict friendship is settled with the English it is not easily broken, and that by the blessing of God the English and Maráthás together may be the means of establishing Sháh Allum at Delhi and driving out the Jats and Abdallis.

In case Mádhavráv makes difficulties and listens to the proposals of Hyder Alli Khán and the Nizám, he may be given to understand that the Rája of Berár has been soliciting the friendship of the English at Bengal and of this court, and that they will doubtless give him their friendship if Mádhavráv does not engage it.

Nágojiráv will use any other arguments that may occur for engaging Mádhavráv to be a friend to the Naváb and the English. It is not so much his assistance they want as that he should not assist Hyder Alli or the Subha. They will be glad of his friendship only, and had not Ruccon-ud-Dowla and the Nizám deceived them and misrepresented the situation of affairs, a friendly explanation would have taken place when the English Sardar went to Mádhavráv's camp, and Mr. Bourchier would have also gone thither.

(A True Copy)
ANDREW RAMSEY,
Secretary.

Thursday, 17th.—Sakhárám Bápu acquainting me he should be glad to see me this evening about 7 o'clock, went there and presented him with what by Govind Shivrám was thought necessary, and after talking very freely on different subjects some time, I requested he would procure me an audience that I might be acquainted with what they had to say to me, and likewise set forth my demands. He told me that they had been talking about it, and that I should be sent for to the Darbár either to-morrow or the next day. I then took my leave.

Saturday, 19th.—Having procured the passports for Mr. Brome delivered him instructions and he set out for Násik this morning:—

"To

Mr. CHARLES BROME.

Sir,—The Hon'ble the President and Council having thought proper to direct that you proceed to Rághoba, who is now at Násik, with the presents intended for him, enclosed is a list of them, including some, I learn, it will be proper to make his ministers. You will therewith likewise receive a letter to him from the Governor, a letter of credit, in case you may want any money there, and an order from the Sarkár here for your being supplied on the road with such *bigáris* and necessaries you may have occasion for.

My superiors imagine, from Rághobá's having lately sent a person with a present and assurances of friendship to the President, that he may have some particular point in view, more especially as the late accommodation betwixt him and Mádhavráv they have reason to think is not a cordial one, and which from the best enquiry I have been able to make since my arrival here is confirmed. You will therefore encourage any advances he may make you, so as, if possible, to draw from him some proposals, in which, should you succeed, evade any direct answer by telling him you will communicate the same to your surperiors and wait their answer. But notwithstanding the late accommodation is by most thought not to be a permanent one, yet Rághoba from all I can learn is not in a capacity, at least for some time, to effect any thing against his nephew; therefore his views must be distant ones. You are well acquainted with the President and Council's views in respect to Rághoba. You will therefore, after waiting a suitable time to hear anything he may have to say, return to Poona as fast as you can. I wish you success and am,

Sir,

Poona, 18th December 1767.

Your most humble servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

Agreeably to what Sakhárám Bápu told me I was this evening sent for to the Darbár. After sitting some little time came in Nána Fadanavis, Sakhárám Bápu and Govind Shivrám, and Rámáji Chitnis who conducted me in was also present, when Mádhavráv asked me what demands I had to make. As at the former meeting I had mentioned, I replied that I had not much to say, but as I found they were unwilling to acquaint me with the reasons for requesting a gentleman might come here, I should, without hesitation, inform them of the particulars, and then set forth the four following articles, desiring they might be immediately complied with:—

1*st.*—That about a year and a half ago the ketch "Lively" was obliged by bad weather to take shelter in Chaul harbour and ever since there detained at the utter destruction of the owners, and though he had given orders for the release of her and cargo, no obedience was paid thereto by his officers.

2nd.—That notwithstanding the losses our merchants had suffered from the depredations committed by the officers of his fleets had been settled at the trifling sum of rupees thirty thousand nine hundred and fifteen three-quarters and fifty reas, three years ago, and his orders then passed for the payments, yet this also had never been done; nor the batela belonging to Nasarvánji Modi returned, or the batela of two hundred khandis ordered to be given to Byrámji Hormasji in lieu of his grab, been yet complied with.

3rd.—That though Orpár affair had been so long settled, yet the owners of the boats that were there seized could not attend their business for fear of being laid hold on, which his officer there had threatened, in case they appeared out of Surat town in order to reimburse themselves.

4th.—That several slaves belonging to gentlemen at Bombay had been seen at Thána and other places and Governor Crommelin three years ago procured an order for their delivery, yet when it was produced, they were secreted and could not be found.

In answer to the above Mádhavráv told me that with regard to the "Lively" an order should be given for her release. That the amount settled to be paid for the losses our merchants had sustained and the batelas to be returned was on condition that fourteen articles which he had sent to Governor Crommelin should be first settled. I replied that those fourteen articles Governor Crommelin had answered. He said it was true he had answered them, but they never were adjusted, and he (Mádhavráv) in reply to these answers wrote a second letter by Ránoji Khidmatgár, to which no answer has ever been given. I told him it was extraordinary he should have written a letter and received no reply, but as I was ignorant of the transaction, if he would give me the date of the letter I should advise my superiors regarding it. Just at this time cassids arrived with some letters, which I afterwards learnt were from the Nizám's camp, on opening of which Mádhavráv hastily despatched me.

From the whole tenor of the Darbár behaviour and their not opening themselves, but endeavouring to draw from me every thing, I have great reason to think they have something in reserve to say either with respect to Hyder Alli or Janjira. If possible it should first come from me, and I have agreeably to my superiors' instructions, as opportunities offered, industriously endeavoured to draw it from them, which I hope of effecting (but will take time, according to the method of these people's doing business), more especially as there does not appear to me that necessity of opening the subject immediately from there being no appearance at present of their taking part with the Nizám and Hyder Alli. The latter is, they are well convinced, their declared enemy, and will, whenever in his power, disturb them; therefore they will not, in point of policy, support him. The Jats too with the Márwár Rája and others joining in Hindustán will oblige them to be on their guard and not trust too large a part of their force at so great a distance. Rághoba is also as ever a check upon them notwithstanding their late reconciliations, and they are under some perplexity at his present behaviour, as he is of their intentions.

Sunday, 20th.—This morning the pair of cassids that arrived last night in twenty days came to me. From them I learnt that the Nizám is encamped within a kos of Amboorgar, the siege of which place they raised 23 days ago; that our forces are at Ellur, 12 kos from Amboorgar, on their march again to attack the Nizám and Hyder Alli.

Monday, 21st.—This evening returned Rámáji Chitnis' visit, and made him a present. I requested of him that he would speedily procure me the order for releasing the "Lively" ketch and also give me the date of the letter they say they wrote to Governor Crommelin and have not received an answer, that I may write to Bombay about it, both which he promised to do.

Tuesday, 22nd.—Sent Rámáji Parvoe to Rámáji Chitnis for the date of the letter, but which they have not been able to find though employed these three days in looking for it, but would send it to me as soon as they possibly could.

Thursday, 24th.—Being now at some certainty with respect to the intentions of the Maráthás regarding the present disputes in the Karnátak, and finding no prospect of Nágojiráv's arrival, for which I have some days waited, determined, agreeably to my superiors' directions, to acquaint the President and Council at Madras with the situation of affairs, and accordingly despatched the following address:—

"To

THE HON'BLE CHARLES BOURCHIER, ESQUIRE,

President and Governor and Council at Fort St. George.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—The Hon'ble the President and Council of Bombay having been pleased to order me to Poona with directions to advise you, gentlemen, as soon as I was at a certainty what part the Maráthás were likely to take in the present disputes subsisting in the Karnátak, I shall lay before you, from the best information I have been able to procure, their situation and designs. This I should have done some days ago, but hearing from cassids that arrived here from Madras some days after me that Mahomed Alli Khán had sent his agent Nágojiráv, who was on the road and would reach Poona in a very few days, made me desirous of having an interview with him first, but there being yet no certainty when he will come, has determined me to defer no longer.

With regard to the disputes in the Karnátak at present there is no appearance of their taking part with the Nizám and Hyder Alli, the latter is, they are well convinced, their professed enemy, and will, whenever in his power, notwithstanding any alliance they may make with him now, give them trouble. Therefore they will not, I should imagine, in point of policy, support or strengthen him unless he will make it very materially their interest.

The late accommodation between Mádhavráv and his uncle Rághoba is imagined by most not to be a cordial one, and though Mádhavráv may be under no apprehensions from him for the present, yet it is believed to be a principal reason for his not taking the field this year himself, which from his lately having discharged one thousand and five hundred *bigáris,* four hundred men belonging to his train, and some thousand horse, I judge he will not.

It is likewise confidently reported here that Joarsing the Jat Rája and Bijaysing the Márwár Rája have settled their differences and entered into alliance, and it is thought that Bundi Kot and Mádhavsing of Junágad will accede to it though they have lately had an engagement, which, should it prove true, will be another motive for keeping the attention of the Maráthás employed this way. The Hon'ble the President and Council have transmitted me a copy of your Honor and Council's memorandum to Nágojiráv, and hope you will rest assured of my best abilities being exerted in carrying them into execution; but as they know he is coming on this business, they will not enter on the subject until he arrives, nor have I yet given them the least intimation of its being any part of my errand, as there is no present prospect of their joining the Nizám and Hyder Alli, which seems to be a principal point, and my opening the subject will be only a means of greatly enhancing their terms.

I shall again address your Honor and Council as soon as any thing worthy your notice occurs, and remain, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Poona, 22nd December 1767. Your most obedient humble servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

At noon received my superiors' commands of the 20th instant as follows:—

"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire.

Sir,—Not having received any letters from you since we wrote you the 11th instant, this is purposely to acquaint you that our troops having accomplished the end for which they were sent to Rájápur are returned from thence, and to enclose for your notice copy of a letter received last night from the President and Council of Fort St. George, which shows the necessity of your exerting yourself in obtaining the most perfect knowledge of the designs of the Maráthás in the present situation of affairs.

We are,
Your loving friends,
THOMAS HODGES,
PETER ELVIN WRENCH.
JOHN GWIN.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JAMES RYLEY.
RAWSON HART BODDAM.
BENJAMIN JERVIS.
S. MATCHAM."

Bombay Castle,
20th December 1767.

Friday, 25th.—Wrote the following address to my superiors at Bombay:—

"To

The Hon'ble THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—Since my respects under the 5th I have been honoured with your commands of the 11th and 20th with the papers enclosed, to which a strict obedience shall be shown.

Notwithstanding my daily application for an audience on business, it was the 11th before I was sent for, and then late in the evening. After a little time I set forth that at his (Mádhavráv's) request I was sent here and desired to know what particular business he had to say to me that I might acquaint my superiors. He began by relating the antient friendship that had subsisted between the Hon'ble Company and him, which made him anxious for a gentleman's coming here as a proof of the same good harmony continuing, and then to avoid giving me an answer to my question enquired the news of the Karnátak, which I fully acquainted him with. This he confirmed, and told me he had four days before received letters from Madras and Mahomed Alli Khán requesting his assistance, and that the latter's agent, Nágojiráv, was on the road coming here to confer with him on this business; also that the gentlemen at Madras had written to Bombay for a person being sent on this account. I told him I was here ready to hear any proposals he had to make on this head, of which I would make full report to Bombay. He replied, as Nagojiráv might be expected in a few days, he would defer talking on this subject until he arrived, by which I might probably receive some orders regarding it from Bombay. I then asked him, as he had thought proper to mention the Karnátak, for what purpose Gopálráv with a considerable force had been lately despatched that way? It was a question my duty obliged me to put, and I requested a sincere answer. He assured me they were only gone to protect their own territories and collect the tribute. This, from the best information I can procure, is true. The next day I had some conversation with Govind Shivrám, and he very openly told me they should

determine on nothing until the different agents from Mahomed Alli Khán and the Nizám arrived. I asked him what great things could they hope for from the proposals or even friendship of either the Nizám or Hyder Alli, who had both given them many proofs that no treaties were binding longer than it served convenience, and added, they must be convinced by experience it was quite the reverse with the English, who had ever paid the strictest attention to every one they entered into. He replied he could not say what part they should act. There were three ways for them to pursue—1st, to join the Nizám and Hyder Alli against Mahomed Alli Khán and us; 2nd, to join Mahomed Alli and English against the Nizám and Hyder Alli; the 3rd, to prevail on the Nizám to remain neutral and join the English and Mahomed Alli against Hyder Ally. The first he confessed required consideration, for though the Nizám was in friendship with them, yet he had in part broken it by supporting their professed enemy, Hyder Alli. I then told him it would be saving of much time if he would let me know what proposals they had to make that I might receive directions from Bombay by the time Nágojiráv arrived. He said they should not enter upon that subject until he was here.

From the whole tenor of the Darbár's behaviour, and their not choosing to open themselves but endeavouring to draw what they can from me, I have great reason to think they have something in reserve to say either with respect to Hyder Alli in Janjira, but chose if possible it should first come from me, and I have agreeably to your Honor and Council's instruction as studiously endeavoured to draw it from them without opening myself or giving them the least intimation of it being any part of my embassy. This, though it will take time, I am in hopes of accomplishing through the means of the young Rája of Bednur whom Mádhavráv brought with him last year. His mother the Ráni died on the road. He has several times sent his man to me, requesting I would interest myself in his behalf, and provided the Honb'le Company would reinstate him in his government, has promised to reimburse them their charges and give them any stronghold on the sea coast with an exclusive right to the pepper and sandalwood trade. But this desirable end I was convinced cannot be accomplished without a strong land force. I therefore said, as the Rája was now in the hands of the Maráthás, it would be impossible for him to enter into any treaty without their consent. He replied that not only Mádhavráv but some of his ministers were willing to assist him, provided their *chauth* could be secured to them without the trouble they now labour under of recovering it by force. I told him, if he was convinced that to be the case, if he would prevail on Mádhavráv to speak to me about it, I would give Mádhavráv an answer, and do all in my power to assist the Rája. He told me he made not the least doubt of doing it in a few days. For the foregoing reasons I have avoided letting the Darbár know the principal part of my erraud, and hope they will be approved of by your Honor and Council, more especially as there is not the least appearance of their joining the Nizám and Hyder Alli, which seems to me a very principal point, for it is positively said Mádhavráv will not take the field this year, and from his discharging a number of his people I dare believe it to be true. The chief motive given for this inactivity at so favourable a juncture for his getting possession of the Bednur country, now quite destitute of any force, is his apprehensions of Rághoba creating some disturbance should he leave his capital for any time, whose late behaviour perplexes them a good deal, for he is marching about with his forces, and various are the reports of his intentions; nay so jealous are they of him, that it was five days after my application before I could procure the passports for Mr. Brome to go to Násik. He set out for that place the 19th, and if your Honor and Council think proper his remaining there some time may be of service by keeping this court alarmed, and prevent their forming any project to our prejudice. It is also confidently reported that Joarsing the Jat Rája and Bijaysing the Márwár Rája have entered into an alliance and are endeavouring to persuade Mádhavsing of Junágad and the Rája of Bundikot to accede to it, which, if they should, will be another motive for keeping the attention of the Maráthás employed in this way.

On the 27th I paid Sakhárám Bápu a visit and requested he would give me an opportunity of finishing the trifling business I had to do, which he promised, and accordingly on the 19th, in the evening, I was again sent for to the Darbár, when there were present Sakhárám Bápu, Govind Shivrám, Nána Fadanavis and Rámáji Chitnis. Mádhavráv opened the conversation by asking me if I had anything to say. I told him, not much; but as I found he was unwilling to acquaint me with his reasons for desiring a gentleman might come here, I should, without hesitation, inform him of the particulars and set forth the four following:—

1*st.*—That about a year and a half ago the ketch "Lively" was obliged by bad weather to take shelter in Chaul harbour and ever since there detained at the utter destruction of the owners, and though he had given orders for the release of her and cargo, no obedience was paid thereto by his officers.

2*nd.*—That notwithstanding the losses our merchants had suffered from the depredations committed by the officers of his fleets, the loss had been settled at the trifling sum of rupees thirty thousand nine hundred and fifteen three-quarters and fifty reas, three years ago, and his orders then passed for the payment, yet this also had never been done; nor the battela belonging to Nasarvánji Modi returned, or the battela of two hundred khándis ordered to be given Byrámji Homji in lieu of his grab has not yet been complied with.

3*rd.*—That though the Orpár affair had been so long settled, yet the owners of the boats that were there seized could not attend their business for fear of being laid hold on, which his officer there had threatened in case they appeared out of Surat town in order to reimburse himself.

4*th.*—That several slaves belonging to gentlemen at Bombay that had been at Thána and other places and Governor Crommelin three years ago procured an order for their delivery, yet when it was produced, they were secreted and could not be found.

In answer to the above Mádhavráv said that with regard to the ketch "Lively" an order should be given for her release, also the 3rd and 4th articles adjusted, but the amount of thirty thousand nine hundred and fifteen three-quarters and fifty reas agreed to be paid for the losses our merchants had sustained was on condition that fourteen articles he had sent to Governor Crommelin should first be settled. I replied that those articles had been answered. He said it was true, but they never were adjusted, and in reply thereto he had written a second letter by Ránoji Khidmatgár, to which no answer was ever given. As I was ignorant of that transaction, I desired he would give me the copy of that letter that I might write regarding it, which he directed Rámáji Chitnis to do, but it was not till last night that I was able to procure it, and then without date. I request your Honor and Council's directions regarding it, and sincerely hope my conduct hitherto will meet with your approval.

Cassids that arrived in 26 days from Nizám Alli's camp mention that his and our forces are encamped within six or eight kos of each other, where they remain quiet; that Hyder Alli had raised the siege of Amburgar twenty-eight days ago after having been fourteen days before it. Letters from Masulipatam also mention that a number of Europeans (how many they do not say) had landed there from Bengal; that part immediately marched for Madras and the rest waited for further orders; likewise that the inhabitants of Hyderabad were in some consternation for fear of our attacking that place.

I remain very respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Poona, 25th December 1767.

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

Monday, 28th.—This day at noon arrived three express camels in twelve days from Nizám Alli's camp, one despatched to Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son, thinking they must ere this be arrived here, and two to Mádhavráv. There is no news on the road what is become of the Nizám's and Hyder Alli's agents, nor can I learn for certain where they are. However immediately sent to procure the best intelligence regarding them and the Karnátak.

In the evening the people I sent to learn the news from the Karnátak by the camels returned and informed me that we and Mahomed Alli Khán are much too powerful for the Nizám and Hyder Alli, who dare not face them, but frequent skirmishes between parties happen, in which they are always worsted. They have therefore sent pressingly to Mádhavráv for assistance. This Rámáji Chitnis likewise confirms, and that Hyder Alli is enlisting all the troops he possibly can. They also say that the Nizám would willingly make peace, but Hyder Alli by every means in his power prevents him, promising to defray all the expenses of the war.

Tuesday, 29th.—Notwithstanding my pressing entreaties every day to procure the order for the release of the ketch "Lively", I have as often with very frivolous excuses been put off; therefore in the evening sent to Govind Shivrám and Rámáji Chitnis to know the meaning of it, and requested their resolution whether they would give me the order or not.

Wednesday, 30th.—This morning Rámáji Parvoe acquaints me that the order for the delivery of the "Lively" is finished and only wants Mádhavráv's sign, which he cannot put this morning owing to his wife's going to condole with her mother at Násik on the loss of her husband, but that in the evening he would do it.

At 12 o'clock the Mirza of the pattamars brought a pair of cassids just arrived from Nizám Alli's camp, who acquaint me that after they were on the road about four days they learnt that there had been an engagement near Amburgar between the Nizám, Hyder Alli and Mahomed Alli Khán, wherein the former were entirely routed and had retired about eight kos on this side the field of battle and a pair of pattamars might be expected every hour with the particulars.

In the afternoon I was informed that the Nizám and Hyder Alli had lost in the engagement thirty thousand foot and one thousand and two hundred horse killed; also four elephants with their colours and nobut and 70 pieces of cannon; that all the Europeans in Hyder Alli's service had deserted to Mahomed Alli.

Late this evening Rámáji Parvoe brought me the order for the ketch "Lively", which I would immediately despatch to Bombay, but wait to hear the particulars of the engagement between the Nizám and Mahomed Alli Khán.

Thursday, 31st.—At noon I am informed that no more particulars of the engagement is brought than what is already set forth.

This evening Mahomed Alli Khán paid me a visit. He has, I find, much the ear of Mádhavráv privately and has in some measure been instrumental in getting the order for the "Lively" and in furthering such other business I have to finish. After talking on the foregoing I asked the purport of the advices brought by the express camels arrived the 28th. He informed me that the Nizám had written Mádhavráv pressingly for assistance; that in case he could not come himself to send even an officer with ten thousand horse which would be of great service at this juncture, and that on the like occasion he in return would assist him, and desired he would send orders to Gopálráv, the Commander of his forces in those parts, not to molest Hyder Alli's country for such part of last year's revenues as might be due; that he (Hyder Alli) had paid that to the shroffs, and for this year's he would be accountable. Mádhavráv asked his opinion (that as he himself is determined not to go any where this year) whether he should comply the Nizám's request

for ten thousand horse? Mahomed Alli replied that if the Nizám and Hyder should be worsted that his business would be done without interfering or giving the English cause of disgust, meaning he would recover his tribute from Hyder Alli without trouble; that as they were in a declining way his assisting them with ten thousand horse would not in all likelihood retrieve their affairs, and should he lend his assistance, and they then not succeed, he would not only lose his credit, but also disoblige the English, whose assistance he may depend upon, provided they were on friendly terms, and who, he might be assured, will not take advantage of his distress, as the Nizám certainly will, he knows by experience, whenever a favourable opportunity offers, and Mahomed Alli assured me for certain, that Mádhavráv will not either go himself or lend Hyder Alli any assistance. The reasons he gave me I have already set forth in my diary, that is, the fear of Rághoba raising some disturbance, besides he is under engagements to pay the whole of the amount stipulated in their late accommodation by the Diváli, the balance of which is twenty lákhs. Until he has done this he does not look upon himself at liberty to undertake any thing. He likewise told me that Mádhavráv read the letter received on 30th to him, wherein it says the Nizám was very desirous of peace, and some overtures had passed between him and Mahomed Alli Khán, which Hyder Alli had taken disgust at, and had seperated from the Nizám with an intent, as he gave out, of returning towards Bednur. I took this opportunity of asking him what Mádhavráv intended doing for the Rájá of Bednur, hinting that if he purposed reinstating him in his government, that a more favourable opportunity could not offer. He replied, Mádhavráv was desirous of serving him, but should not think of it until next year, when he would himself take the field.

January.

Friday, 1st.—This morning Gopál Chakradhar, Rághoba's Vakil, here came to see me. In the course of our conversation I asked him the situation of affairs between Rághoba and Mádhavráv. He very openly told me that notwithstanding the late reconciliation they placed no confidence in each other, and that I might depend upon it Rághoba would not sit down quietly under the disgrace of having all the principal forts taken out of his hands and no share in the Government; that he only waited to see if Mádhavráv failed in any of his agreements with him, which, should he do in the least point, Rághoba would certainly make use of it to foment matters and, at any rate, I should see in six months what a disturbance he would create. He likewise told me in confidence that Rághoba had concerted measures for entering into a strict and lasting friendship with the English and intended sending a person to Madras on this account, but as Mr. Brome was now gone to him he would now defer it, and assured me it was Rághoba's sincere desire to be on the most amicable footing with us.

Arrived a pair of cassids from the Nizám's camp to Mádhavráv in twenty days, confirming what the pattamars reported that arrived the 30th ultimo from Mahomed Alli Khán, also that all the Europeans had deserted Hyder Alli.

Saturday, 2nd.—This morning intelligence is brought me that Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son, Vakils from the Nizám and Hyder Alli, are arrived at Vánoudi, one and half kos off, and would come into town to-morrow; that they have been two months sixteen days on the road. As the Nizám and Hyder Alli's affairs appear to be in a declining way and they very pressing with Mádhavráv for his assistance, it is most probable these agents will immediately make their proposals with very large offers. I judge it therefore necessary to acquaint my superiors at Bombay of their arrival, requesting their directions whether I shall open myself by explaining my errand to them, as I find they will not speak plain themselves, and the prospect I had of bringing them to do it

through the means of the Bednur Rájá has failed, for Mádhavráv has told him he cannot assist him this year. Agreeably to the foregoing, despatched the following address to Bombay per sepoy express:—

"To

The Hon'ble THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—My last respect waited on your Honour and Council the 25th ultimo, setting forth my transaction and situation of affairs to that time, and this is despatched purposely to advise you of the arrival of Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son, Vakils from the Nizám and Hyder Alli, at Vánoudy, about one and a half kos out of town, and will make their entrance to-morrow. They have been two months and sixteen days on the road.

It is with pleasure I can acquaint your Honour and Council for certain that our forces in the Karnátak have, twenty-five days ago, again defeated the Nizám and Hyder Ally about five kos from Amburgar, and obliged them to retreat eight kos further to the northward. The particulars of the killed and wounded the cassids could not tell me, but they believe a great number, as the battle lasted four hours, and particularly many elephants which they posted in the front of their line. By a letter received the 30th ultimo from Mádhavráv's Vakil attending the Nizám's camp and told me by a person who heard it read, the Nizám is heartily tired of the war. Some overtures had passed between him and Mahomed Alli Khán, at which Hyder Alli had taken disgust, separated from him with an intent, as he gave out, of returning towards Bednur.

As the Nizám's and Hyder Alli's agents are arrived, they, I imagine, will immediately make their proposals, and if your Honor and Council still think it necessary to attempt forming a junction with the Maráthás, I request your directions whether I shall speak plainly to them, for I find they will not open themselves, which I was in hopes of, through the means of the Rájá of Bednur, but Mádhavráv told him he cannot assist him this year, but intended going himself to the southward, the next will take him along with him. I do not hear any news of Nágojiráv.

Inclosed your Honor and Council will be pleased to receive the order on Visáji Pant for the release of the "Lively" ketch.

Poona, 2nd January 1768.

I remain, very respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

Monday, 4th.—This morning Mahádji Sindia, the officer who commanded the Marátha forces in Hindustán, is arrived at Sangam, where Mádhavráv went to receive him.

Tuesday, 5th.—This afternoon went to Govind Shivrám to sift out if possible the views of the Darbár with regard to the Nizám and Hyder Alli as their agents are now arrived, and I hear the 8th is fixed for their public audience; but from the conversation that passed I judge they are not yet determined on what part they shall take with respect to them or the Karnátak.

However I find our detention of Angria's sons chagrined them much, and is what I imagine they will make a heavy complaint about, and I fear may be a means for their refusing to deliver up several deserters now here.

In the evening Mádhavráv sent his compliments and desired to see me. I accordingly went, where, waiting a little time, he desired I would stay and sup with him, which I complied with. Before supper during our conversation on indifferent matters with regard to Europe and India, I told him the Rájá of Bednur had several times sent his man to me to request my interest in his behalf, but as he was now in a manner a prisoner of his, I could give him no answer until I know his intentions regarding him, therefore should be glad to know what he purposed doing for him. He replied that his bringing him here was with an intention of serving him, which he should do when a proper opportunity offered.

Wednesday, 6th.—A pair of cassids arrived yesterday evening from Rájás Joarsing and Bijaysing, mentioning that peace is not yet established between them and Mádhavsing, but will now in all likelihood soon as Badarsing, Rájá of Rupnagar, has interfered.

Thursday, 7th.—Mahomed Alli Khán this evening sent me word that he heard some shroff's letter in town says that peace is concluded between the Nizám and Hyder Alli Khán through the means of Mr. Smith promising the Nizám fifteen lákhs of rupees, but in lieu of of money the English have agreed to assist him with a body of Europeans, which are to be paid by Mahomed Alli Khán; that the Nizám had separated from Hyder Alli and is quartered at Dowan Choully, leaving his Diván with a large force with him, who is encamped near Káveripattan.

Friday, 8th.—This morning Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son had their first audience at the Darbár and presented each to Mádhavráv an elephant, horse and *sirpáv*, with a complete set of jewels, but stayed there but a very little time.

Saturday, 9th.—This morning sent people to enquire amongst the shroffs and mucadams of the pattamars and jassuds to find if possible to whom the letter was written regarding the peace concluded between the Nizám and Mahomed Alli Khán, but without success.

Sunday, 10th.—This morning received my superiors' commands of the 6th, as entered hereafter, in which they have been pleased to permit of my opening myself to the Maráthás first, when a proper opportunity offers, but with the necessary caution and reserve, which I shall not fail to do, but fear though it be done in the most cautious manner it will raise their expectations to a most intolerable pitch, considering agents are arrived from the Nizám and Hyder Alli on the same errand, and whose offers, I dare say, will far exceed anything I am empowered to make; and as Nágojiráv, Mahomed Alli Khán's agent, may also be expected upon the like business in a very few days, and Mádhavráv and Govind Shivrám have already told me they should not enter upon affairs in the Karnátak until his arrival, and Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son not yet entered upon any business with the Darbár, I judge it will be most for my honourable employers' interest to wait a few days, but in the interim use my endeavours privately to induce Mádhavráv to open first. This at the same time it may be of service to Hon'ble Company's interest can be of no detriment to the business I am sent upon, because I am well assured it is not in Mádhavráv's power to take the field this year, first on account of his apprehensions and engagements to Rághoba, and secondly the low state of his finances to recruit, while he has sent his people and orders for the whole amount of the revenues of the different countries to be paid into his treasury without any deductions for maintaining a certain number of troops to attend him immediately on summons as usual, nor indeed can any business be done these three days on account of their fast of *Sankránt*:—

"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire.

Sir,—We have received your letter of the 25th ultimo and entirely approve your conduct in your negotiations till that time, flattering ourselves you will ere now have been able to bring Mádhavráv to declare his intentions as to the parts he proposes taking in the troubles now subsisting in the Karnátak. Though should he contrary to our hopes and expectations still have evaded opening himself on this subject, we would have you lose no favourable opportunity of bringing him to a declaration, as the season advances fast and renders it necessary for us to be at a certainty as to the conduct we are to observe in the present conjuncture.

The unfortunate affair of the "Defiance" which we learn was by some unhappy accident blown up the 15th of Nevember in the gulf of Persia, with an entire company of infantry on board, renders it unavoidable our sending the "Revenge" to replace her, and a sufficient number of men to complete the force at first sent to Persia, by which means we shall not have more than four hundred European infantry, seventy-six artillery and eight hundred sepoys to leave for any service whatever, and this with our Marine force, the Major and Superintendent are of opinion, will be sufficient only for the reduction of Hyder Alli's forts and possessions upon this coast near the sea and the destruction of his fleet, which we notice for your guidance, but not to be made known to the Maráthás.

We approve of your intentions to keep Mr. Brome with Rághoba so long as you may be of opinion it will answer the end proposed; but you must be careful that it gives no disgust to Mádhavráv that may be prejudicial to the points you have in charge to treat on with him more particularly.

Since writing thus far we have received your letter of the 2nd instant, and as we thereby find you have no prospect of bringing the Maráthás to declare themselves, we must acquiesce in your speaking first whenever a suitable opportunity offers; but we shall rely on your doing it with the caution and reserve necessary in all transactions with these people, and on your pursuing every means in your power for inducing them to enter seriously into our views.

Bombay Castle,
6th January 1768.

We are,
Your loving friends,
THOMAS HODGES.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JOHN GWIN.
JAMES RYLEY.
RAWSON H. BODDAM.
BENJAMIN JERVIS.
JOHN WATSON."

Wednesday, 13th.—I have informed that Siddi Yacoob Khán has written Mádhavráv that hitherto he has been in doubt whether he has assisted Siddi Abdul Rahiman against him; but the mask is now taken off, as Siddi Rahim has again come down and retaken Mudgur through the assistance of Visáji Pant; that if it is with his approbation, he desires Mádhavráv will immediately write him so that he may know which way to act.

Thursday, 14th.—The Darbár is so much engaged with settling their accounts with Mahádji Sindia and returning him again with the command of the troops in Hindustán that I have not yet, and fear shall not for some days, have it in my power to see any of the ministers, who are almost all day at the Darbár, and this has been given me for a reason two or three times by Govind Shivrám when I have sent to him for his not being able to see me. In short, these people will not go out of their accustomed road, and I find nothing but patience and assuring unconcern about matters will effect anything with him.

Friday, 15th.—This morning a pair of pattamars arrived from Hyder Alli's camp to Chanda Sáheb's son. From them I learn that the Nizám is at Bagulur Ghat near Assur fort, and that his brother Bussállat Jang, who was left with Hyder Alli, has likewise left him; Hyder Alli with his force is encamped at Káveripattan near fort Hallakoal, and the English and Mahomed Alli at Dollea, about three kos distance, with eighteen thousand horse and foot.

Sunday, 15th.—This morning Mahomed Alli Khán Hakim sent me word that Moro Pant, Rámchandra Jádhav and Agaji Surja had been to Madras on the part of Nizám Alli and had concluded a peace with Mahomed Alli Khán, but the terms he could not tell; and that the Nizám had ordered his Diván Ruccon-ud-Dowla and Bussállat Jang with their troops to leave Hyder Alli, and that they were, when the pattamars came away, thirty kos distance. This evening Mahádji Sindia received his *sirpáv* and audience of leave to return to Hindustán with the chief command.

Monday, 18th.—Yesterday Govind Shivrám and Mahomed Alli Khán acquainted me they were empowered by Mádhavráv to talk with me regarding the articles I some time ago laid before him. I therefore this morning went to Govind Shivrám's, where Mahomed Alli came. They opened the conversation with setting forth the long and antient friendship that had subsisted between the English and Mádhavráv's family, which he was desirous and willing should be continued inviolable, and that no trifling disputes that might possibly happen between the subjects of the two states should break it. They then opened the Orpár affair with assuring me, the Pandit, who was here, had alleged that we took the money by force, and that the boats were absolutely deserted by the lascars and on shore. I then produced to them the depositions taken on that occasion, as a convincing proof, that the lascars had not deserted them but were forced away by the Pandit's sepoys; nor were the boats wrecked, for in such case what was the necessity for the Pandit's ordering them to be broken, and one of them to be broken and one of them burnt, but to prevent a discovery; but were they even, as the Pandit says, wrecked, they had only a right to half, but which was by no means the case, for the boats were seized by the Pandit's people before the lascars belonging to them had left them. Govind Shivrám with some warmth replied it could not be. I told him we were convinced from the enquiries made it was so; that we could not oblige them to give an order, but he might be assured we should not suffer our merchants to be impeded in their business. He then softened and desired I would hear what the Pandit had to say, which I consented to.

Tuesday, 19th.—I was this morning informed that early yesterday morning the Rája of Bednur was carried prisoner to Chakan fort, about 18 kos distance, but brought back again in the evening.

Wenesday, 20th.—This morning Nágojiráv, who arrived at Parvati two days ago, sent his compliments, acquainting me of his ill state of health, but hoped in a few days to be able to come into town, when he would wait on me, which I desired he would do before he went to the Darbár.

This afternoon Bhukandji Haridat, a principal Shroff, has brought me a letter of twenty-four days' date from his partner Bhukandji Kásidás at Madras, wherein it is mentioned that peace was concluded between the Subha Nizám Alli Khán and Mahomed Alli Khán, the latter paying fifteen lákhs of rupees, for which Bhukandji Kásidás stood security. But the conditions were that the Nizám should immediately quit Hyder Alli and march with his forces over the Gháts to Kurpa Fort, which he performed and ordered his Diván Ruccon-ud-Dowla, whom he had before left with Hyder Alli, to join him. The letter further adds that our toops were in pursuit of Hyder Alli and had retaken the forts of Kaveripattan and Salam.

Thursday, 21st.—Judging it necessary to acquaint my superiors with the advices received yesterday, accordingly despatched the following address and sepoy express :—

" To

The Hon'ble THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—On the 10th your Honor and Council's commands of the 6th reached me, and this is purposely to acquaint you that a peace is absolutely concluded between the Nizám and Mahomed Alli Khán, the latter paying 15 lákhs of rupees; what other conditions I do not know, but so far is true if Shroff's letters can be credited, for Bhukandji Haridat, a principal shroff here, brought me a letter of twenty-five days' date from his partner at Madras, Bhukandji Kásidás, who stands Mahomed Alli Khán's security for the payment of the money. It futher says, the Nizám is at Kurpa, sixty kos from Arkot, and has ordered his Diván Ruccon-ud-Dowla, whom he before left with Hyder Alli with a considerable force, to join him; that we have retaken the forts of Kaveripattan and Salam and are still pursuing Hyder Alli.

Nágojiráv arrived at Parvati, though much indisposed; but has acquainted me he hopes to be able to come into town in a day or two. I have desired to see him before he goes to the Darbár, when your Honour and Council may depend I shall use with him every endeavour to induce Mádhavráv to think it his interest to enter into your measures, though I hope there will not now be that necessity of being very urgent with him, for I am convinced from the conversation I have had with him and some of his ministers, since the receipt of your commands of the 6th, my opening first, or letting them know in the least degree we are anxious for their joining us, will raise their terms to a most exorbitant height, and it must be something very material indeed that will prevail on Mádhavráv to take the field at all this year; for I am well assured, and from good authority, that he cannot without great inconvenience do it—first, on account of his apprehensions of, and engagements to, Rághoba, which he will not be able to discharge before Diváli; secondly, the low state of his finances, to recruit which he has sent his own writers with orders for the whole amount of revenues of the different countries to be paid into his treasury without any deductions for maintaining a certain number of troops to attend him as usual. It would therefore take him some time before he could have ready any body of men. which I apprehend would make it too late for us to effect anything material before the monsoon. However I shall not fail to continue my endeavours, which I can the more easily do through Nágojiráv, for, as the Darbár knows he is solely come on this account, he can speak plainer than it might be proper for me to do. For these reasons, and considering the time it would take for their forces to join us, the lateness of the season, and the promising aspect our affairs now wear in the Karnátak, I hope my having deferred opening myself may meet your Honor and Council's approval.

On the 17th Govind Shivrám and Mahomed Alli Khán Hakim acquainted me they were empowered by Mádhavráv to talk with me regarding the articles I some time ago laid before

him. I therefore the next morning went to Govind Shivrám. They began with the Orpár affair. The Pandit who is here I find has alleged that we took the money by force and that the boats were absolutely deserted. I told them was it even so, they had a right only to a half; but so far from it, that I had the evidence of many people, and some belonging to Orpár, to prove that they were never deserted, but the lascars were driven away by their sepoys. Govind Shivrám with some warmth replied it could not be. I told him we are fully satisfied it was so. After much altercation *pro* and *con*, finding he would not be convinced, I told him if they chose to give an order it was very well, I could not oblige them to it, but he might be assured we would not suffer our merchants to be impeded in their business. He then softened and desired I would hear what the Pandit had to say, to which I consented, but have not since heard anything more about it. However I am informed I shall to-morrow be sent for to the Darbár, when I hope to be able to settle the affair.

On the 11th I received a letter from Mr. Brome, at Násik, of the 6th, advising me that Rághoba was at Ujjeni, who had desired he would proceed to him there and that he should set out the next day.

I remain with great respect,

Poona, 21st January 1768. Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

Friday, 22nd.—This evening Mr. Brome returned from Násik and presented me the following letter giving an account of his proceeding there:—

"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire,

At Poona.

Sir,—My last respects were dated the 20th ultimo, from Singwar, and agreeably to what I then wrote you, I set out from thence the same day and arrived at Násik the 3rd instant. As Rághoba was not returned from Trimbak, and Chinto Pant, his Diván, acquainting me it would be some days before he left that place, I thought it advisable that no time might be lost to despatch the Jumbledár with a letter to him, informing him of my arrival, and desired to know whether I should wait on him at that place, or when I might expect the pleasure of seeing him at Násik. In answer to the above Rághoba having requested I would proceed to Indragad (he having the day before removed from Trimbak to that place), I left Násik the 7th, and arrived at his camp the same evening. It was late the next day before I had my first audience, when having presented Rághoba with the Hon'ble the President's letter, your letter and the presents I had brought for him, I intimated that in consequence of his repeated requests in his late letters to the Hon'ble the President that a genlteman might be sent to him, my superiors have thought proper to send me to know his pleasure, and for what purposes he had made these repeated requests, imagining from his being so very pressing he had some business of consequence to impart. He said he had a due sense of my superiors' indulgence in complying with his requests, but as this was our first meeting he would defer entering on that subject until the next day; expressed much satisfaction at the present I had brought, and added he looked on it as a mark of that friendship which he hoped would always subsist between the English and him.

At our next meeting he opened the conversation by informing me of the late disputes between Mádhavráv and him, who, he said, for some time past had behaved very ungratefully notwithstanding the many obligations he laid under to him; that after Nána's death he had not only secured and placed him in quiet possession of his father's titles and country, reserving for himself only the title of guardian, which he, for his country's good, was led to take upon him, as his nephew was very young, but also looked on and esteemed him as his own child; that for some time past he had been treated with disrespect by him, his ministers and officers had been inveigled from him, and a conspiracy has even been set on foot to imprison him. These reasons had induced him to apply to the Hon'ble the President, to whom he had written very pressingly that a gentleman might be sent to him, with whom he would concert measures for revenging his cause, hoping for assistance from the English, but as he had waited in expectation without receiving a favourable answer, he was obliged to accommodate matters in the best manner he could and put up with the affront for the present; that it was with pleasure at last he saw an English gentleman at his court with whom he could talk with freedom, and though the season was too far advanced for him to think of chastising his enemies before the ensuing rains, and consequently stood not in need of immediate assistance, yet he hoped to engage the English on his side, and receive help from them when he might take up arms, which after the rains he was fully resolved on; that his dependence was on them alone, and he earnestly entreated they would assist him with guns and ammunition, and join him with their force, in consideration of which he would come in to any reasonable proposals they might think proper to make here. I thought it a proper opportunity, in hopes of drawing some proposals from him, to ask what my masters were to expect in return should they think proper to give him assistance. He replied he would with pleasure pay ready money for what he might receive from them. I remarked to him that as my masters had neither guns nor ammunition for sale, nor ever made a practice of hiring out of their troops, I presumed they would expect some advantages exclusive of the bare pay of their troops, and the amount cost of such ammunition he might receive from their hands. He hesitated for some time and then asked me what they would be content with? To this question I replied that as he had not acquainted the Governor what business he had to impart to the gentleman he requested might be sent, my superiors had given me no instructions on this head, but as I had before hinted I presumed they would expect something adequate to the assistance he hoped to receive from them, so I took the liberty to recommend to him to draw out such proposals as he was willing to agree to, which on my return I would lay before them and he might depend on their answer. But this he evaded by telling me that when he was assured of assistance from my masters he would either make proposals or sign to such they might think proper to tender him, provided they were reasonable.

The other visits I had the honor to pay Rághoba either passed in repetitions of the above or in discourse tending thereto, when finding I could bring him to make no proposals after having waited on him a suitable time, I pressed him to despatch me, but he requesting I would accompany him to Trimbak for a few days, I complied therewith and employed this time in endeavouring to find out his present strength, and from what I was able to learn, he has at present in his pay only two thousand horse. This account I have reason to think is a true one, as in one of my visits at the Darbár, he himself told me he had, since the late accommodation with Mádhavráv, discharged the greatest part of his troops that it might appear to the world he was sincere, but should, as soon as he was sure of assistance from the English, collect them together again. Having heard of his being in possession of very considerable train of artillery I obtained permission to visit it, being of opinion a certain account thereof might be of some service to my employers. He has at this place one hundred and twenty guns and eight mortars mounted, of

different sizes, the guns from four to twelve pounders, and the mortars from, as near as I could guess, five and half to thirteen inches; but their carriages are in a most ruinous condition. He has other guns at Unandually, the place he usually resides at, but the number I cannot ascertain.

Thus, Sir, having remained with Rághoba as long as I thought I could consistently with my orders, I took my leave at the Darbár this day and purpose setting out for Poona to-morrow.

Accompanying you will be pleased to receive two letters from Rághoba—one for the Hon'ble the President, the other for yourself, also my account of expenses incurred by this journey.

I am, with due respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
CHARLES BROME."

Trimbak, 15th January 1768.

Monday, 25th.—Despatched the following address to my superiors at Bombay :—

" To

THE HON'BLE THOMAS HODGES, ESQUIRE,
President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—My last respects waited on your Honor and Council the 21st instant, and since when Mr. Brome having returned from Násik this serves purposely to enclose a copy of his proceedings, by which you may please to observe, from what is therein set forth, the apprehension Mádhavráv is under from that quarter renders it almost impossible for him to undertake anything material this or even the next year.

Since my last conversation with Govind Shivrám, although I have been pressing in my requests to see Mádhavráv, the Darbár have been so much taken up as they say in despatching their officers to Hindustán (who this day set out) that I have yet not been able to accomplish this point.

Nágojiráv continues so much indisposed that I have not yet seen him.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
THOMAS MOSTYN."

Poona, 25th January 1768.

Wednesday, 27th.—After repeated entreaties Mádhavráv this evening sent for me, and the usual compliments being passed, Mádhavráv desired I would retire with Govind Shivrám and Rámáji Chitnis, who had his orders for settling with me the articles I some time ago presented him. They read over the 14 articles they had presented to Governor Crommelin, to which having seperately answerd, they with some difficulty consented to giving an order for the payment of the amount of losses our merchants had sustained as settled three years ago, but could not help looking on our detention of Angria's sons as an infringement of the treaty concluded the 14th September 1761, and should any of their officers, or even any of their own family fly to us (alluding to Rághoba's disaffection), we would in like manner give them protection. I assured them they might depend upon our abiding by our treaties, but we did not look on

Angria's children as coming under any one of the articles. They were delivered to them by us on condition they should be well treated, but on the contrary were so ill-used as to be obliged to fly from their protection, and lucky it was for them they again fell into our hands; for had they gone to any other power, from their connections and influence in the country, might have given them much trouble, from which they were now secured. They then set forth the loss they suffered by our vessels giving convoy to foreign boats, by which means they evaded taking their pass, also the detriment they suffered by our not permitting their *chowkis* about Surat to remain in the customary places. I told them I would lay their complaints before my superiors, who, they need not doubt, would give them all suitable satisfaction. We then returned to Mádhavráv, when, after sitting a convenient time, I took my leave.

February.

Monday, 1st.—Received letter from Nágojiráv at Parvati acquainting me that he had heard from good authority that by cassids, twenty-two days from Nizám Alli's camp, there is intelligence that as soon as the Nizám's troops had separated from Hyder Alli our forces with Mahomed Alli fell upon the latter and put them to the rout with considerable slaughter.

Saturday, 6th.—Have waited with impatience for the orders, and this morning sent to Govind Shivrám, who replied that, he and Rámáji Chitnis would go to the Darbár and procure Mádhavráv's leave for their being despatched.

Tuesday, 9th.—Nágojiráv still continuing so ill as not to be able to go abroad, and it being necessary I should be acquainted if he has any particular instructions from the President and Council at Madras (besides the memorandum my superiors have already sent me) and concerting measures for our acting jointly for the interest of my hon'ble employers, this morning I went to see him. I found he had received none but the memorandum. I then acquainted him with the advices from Madras by which he might observe the situation of affairs were greatly changed since he left that place; that we had in every engagement had the advantage over the joint forces of the Nizám and Hyder Alli, and since the Nizám had left Hyder Alli there was little to be apprehended from the latter alone, which were entirely the sentiments of the gentlemen at Madras; therefore the forming a junction with the Maráthás appeared the less necessary, more especially as the jealousies and disputes between Mádhavráv and his uncle Rághoba would to all present appearance prevent their joining Hyder Alli or giving us any material assistance, at least before the rains. I therefore advised him to defer entering upon business with the Darbár until we had some fresh advices from Bombay or Madras, for which his ill state of health would be a very good excuse.

In the evening received my superiors' commands of the 5th instant as follows:—

"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire.

Sir,—We have received your letter of the 25th ultimo, by which we perceive the probability there is of Mádhavráv not being able to undertake anything this or even the next year, which together with the season being far advanced, and the situation of affairs in the Karnátak has induced us to determine on setting on foot an expedition against Hyder Alli's fleet and possessions upon this coast. The necessary preparations for which are now making, and we hope our forces will leave this place in ten or twelve days; but in order to conceal our real design we have given out that it is against fort Augustus to compel the Ráni to make good that part of the ransom money now due. You will therefore make the necessary use of this hint in case any

question should be asked you at the Darbár, and we shall rely on your pursuing any measures which may appear to you proper and do not occur to us for promoting the success of our views, though it is now become improper to open yourself to the Maráthás, as you will have perceived by copy of the letter from Madras, dated the 12th December.

Should the operations upon the other coast and this so far distress Hyder Alli as to deprive him entirely of the Bednur dominions, in such case it would be of very material consequence to our Hon'ble Masters' affairs to have a proper person to set up in his stead, so far dependent on them as might entitle them to such privileges and advantages as may be necessary for their commercial interest in that country. A person of this sort we are much at loss to pitch upon, and wish you could point out any one, which you think could answer our views. The young Rája of Bednur now at Poona is one who might perhaps suit us very well, but then would not the entering into any engagements with him publish our intentions to the Maráthás, which we would by all means avoid. For the present of this we would have you give us your sentiments and the necessary information as to his age, capacity, and connections as soon as possible. After making all the enquiry in your power advise us whether any person occurs to you more proper for answering your views.

Bombay Castle,
5th February 1768.

We are,
Your loving friends,
THOMAS HODGES.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JOHN GWIN.
JAMES RYLEY.
RAWSON H. BODDAM.
BENJAMIN JERVIS.
NATHANIEL STACKHOUSE.
JOHN WATSON."

Thursday, 11th.—This evening Mádhavráv sent for me to the Darbár with an intent, I believe, to despatch me, but as I had not yet received any orders from Bombay, I acquainted Mádhavráv that Nágojiráv had brought a *sirpáv* for him from the Governor and Council at Madras, it was necessary I should assist in giving it, which his ill health had hitherto prevented. He set forth the long and ancient friendship that had subsisted between the Hon'ble Company and his family, and that it was his sincere desire to continue and strengthen it, and therefore expected and hoped the Hon'ble Company would not support or assist any of his enemies even though they were his relations. I assured him the Hon'ble Company were as desirous as himself to continue and be upon this most amicable footing with his Government and he might rest satisfied so long as he remained firm in his friendship with them they would not think of supporting or assisting either his relation or any one else against him. After some general conversation I took my leave.

Sunday, 14th.—Ever since the receipt of my superiors' commands of the 5th I have used my utmost endeavours to procure the best information possible regarding the young Rája of Bednur

and of the most proper person to set up in case of our succeeding in conquering that country, and having got such as I believe may be depended on, determined immediately to advise my superiors therewith, and accordingly despatched the following address:—

"To

The Hon'ble THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—Since my last address under the 25th ultimo I have been favoured with your Honor and Council's commands of the 28th ultimo and 5th instant with the papers mentioned to be enclosed.

It is with much pleasure I observe by the advices from Madras that it is now become unnecessary to form a junction with the Maráthás for the reasons I have already acquainted your Honor and Council with; and I have the further pleasure to advise you that, by a letter Nágojiráv lately received from an officer in Nizám Alli's camp, our forces have (since those advices) twice beat Hyder Alli, but the particulars he could not inform me with. And two days ago a report prevailed in town that he was surrounded by our troops; but by some letters received yesterday I was last night informed that a peace was concluded with him, though I cannot speak as to the truth of either of these; however a few days will clear it up.

I have agreeably to your Honor and Council's commands made the strictest enquiry possible with regard to the young Rája of Bednur, though I cannot say they have met with that success I could have wished for, owing to the Rája and all his attendants having been for some time past so closely confined under three *chaukis*, that it is impossible to get any intelligence from them. However the following is I believe to be depended upon, having procured it from Nágojiráv, who is well acquainted with them. After the old Rája's death the Ráni adopted this young Rája, a distant relation, and crowned him in prejudice to one Ráma Rája, a near relation to the old Rája and who had a right to succeed, and was endeavouring to assist his pretensions when one of the Ráni's ministers, with whom she had it seems a familiar intimacy, laid a scheme for cutting him off. This he got notice of and feigned himself sick and caused a report to be spread he was dead and was actually carried out to be burnt, which opportunity he took to get away and fled to the Rája of Chitaldurg (the only powerful person near the Bednur country and able to raise twelve thousand gun-men), who gave him protection and promised to assist him in gaining his right. In the meantime Hyder Alli went against the Bednur country and promised the Rája of Chitaldurg if he would deliver up Ráma Rája he would place him in the Rájaship as the proper successor, but after having conquered the whole country in his name he confined him. During this confusion the Ráni and the adopted Rája fled to Currial fort, but were soon after taken and confined also. Two years ago when Mádhavráv went against Hyder Alli and took the forts of Mudgerry, Seray, &c., on making up matters he insisted on the delivery of these two up to him and was bringing them to Poona, but on the road the Ráni died. Ráma Rája was also with Mádhavráv, but apprehending he was only released from one prison to be put into another, found means to escape and took Nizám Alli's protection, with whom he now is. The young Rája is about sixteen or seventeen years old, a sprightly, sensible young man I am informed, and has with him a brother about fifty years of age, under whose tuition he is. These two are the only persons I can point out to your Honor and Council as proper to be set up, and it is most likely they would be most acceptable, and not only would greatly facilitate its reduction, but its internal peace aftewards, and be also least disgustful to the neighbouring powers as being the right-

ful successors. Should your Honor and Council prefer Ráma Rája, Nágojiráv informs me, should we have any thoughts of reducing that country, for I have not let him into the secret, he believes he can, through the means of one Venkáji Pant (a substantial merchant formerly residing in the Bednur country but now living at Gadag), manage the business and even bring the Rája to Bombay. But should you choose the young one that was really crowned after we have possession of part of the country, no objection occurs to me at present, why he should not be openly demanded of the Maráthás, nor do I think they can be disgusted at it, provided we are guaranteed for payment of their *chauth* without trouble; but of this your Honor and Council will be the best judges. I have only, agreeably to your directions, given my sentiments and sincerely wish they may prove satisfactory.

I have finished every thing with the Darbár regarding the articles I delivered them, but have not received the orders, nor shall until I am despatched, which I imagine will be in a very few days, as they have twice hinted their intentions to me, and which I have as often evaded by telling them that as Nágojiráv had brought a present from Madras for Mádhavráv it was necessary I should assist in presenting it which his ill state of health had hitherto prevented; but a frequent repetition of this will, I fear, cause a jealousy and make them believe I have other motives for staying than merely to make the present, and after I am despatched I cannot with propriety stay above a day or two.

I remain, with much respect,
Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
THOMAS MOSTYN."

Poona,
14th February 1768.

Friday, 19th.—This afternoon Mádhavráv sent his compliments and desired to see me at the Darbár, where, after sitting a little time, he asked me the reason of the armament preparing at Bombay and whither destined, and if I had any letters regarding it from the Governor and Council of Bombay. I told him I had, and that they were going down to Málvan and Ráiri to demand payment of the ransom money due. I then asked him for the several orders, which he directed should be immediately drawn out and acquainted me he purposed despatching me in a few days.

Saturday, 20th.—Náropant, the person that has attended me and supplied my people with provisions, &c., having leave from the Darbár to return to his family, made him a present of a piece of kincob and three yards of scarlet cloth for his trouble.

Sunday, 21st.—This evening arrived a pair of pattamars with the following letter from my superiors at Bombay:—

"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire.

Sir—We wrote you last the 5th instant, and agreeably to what we therein advised, such a military and marine force as could be spared left this place yesterday under the command of Messrs. Gwin and Watson for the purpose you have already been apprised of. This, therefore, is chiefly to direct you to signify our intentions in general terms to the Marátha Government; and reports prevail here that they have sent a force to the southward. You at the same time to acquaint them that we expect they will not interfere or in any shape attempt to obstruct us in our operations, and that they give directions to their officers accordingly. If, however, they choose

to act in conjunction with us, Messrs. Gwin, Watson and Sibbald (who are appointed a committee for negotiating affairs on the expedition) will listen to any reasonable proposals they may make them, calculated for the reduction of Hyder Alli.

We are,
Your loving friends,

Bombay Castle,
18th February 1768.

THOMAS HODGES.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JAMES RYLEY.
BENJAMIN JERVIS.
BRICE FLETCHER."

Agreeably to the above commands I sent Rámáji Parvoe to Govind Shivrám to acquaint him with the contents that he might advise Mádhavráv, to whom but very few had admittance owing to his being in mourning of his grandfather.

Monday, 22nd.—About three o'clock this afternoon I was sent for to the Darbár, where I found Mádhavráv, Sakárám Bápu, Nána Fadanavis, Govind Shivrám, Moroba Fadanavis and Mahomed Alli Khán. After the usual compliments of condolence had passed, Mádhavráv asked me what advices I had received from the Governor and Council. I told him they had directed me to acquaint him that the armament they purposed sending to Málvan and Ráiri they had now determined should proceed against Hyder Alli's possessions on this coast, and they expected, as he had a considerable force that way under Gopálráv, he would give such orders as he in no shape interfered or impeded our operations. If, however, they chose to act in conjunction with us, Messrs. Gwin, Watson and Sibbald, who were down there, had directions to listen to any reasonable proposals they had to make them, calculated for the reduction of Hyder Alli. They seemed to be thunderstruck, and expressed their surprise at our attacking Hyder Alli, with whom they imagined we at Bombay were in perfect peace, at least without apprising them first of it; besides they understood this force was going down to Málvan. I replied that at first it was intended against Málvan, but imagined some late advices had caused the Governor and Council to take this sudden resolution, and as soon as we were determined upon it, they out of the friendship and harmony subsisting between us were made acquainted about it. Mádhavráv said, he had no objections to our punishing Hyder Alli; but as he laid claim to the whole of the countries of Bednur and Sounda, not only on account of their being already in possession of part and intentions of taking the whole as opportunites offered, but the Rája of the former being under his protection, therefore he in the most formal manner objected to our taking the forts, or destroying the country; but in case we did take any part of the country, it should be given up to him. With this he desired I would acquaint my superiors. I told him I should not fail of advising the Governor and Council with his formal demand, but believed they were quite unacquainted with any just pretensions he might have to either the Bednur or Sounda countries, nor I imagined would allow of it. But I requested to know, as he had no objections to our punishing Hyder Alli, how we were to do it without taking his forts and country. He replied that we should act jointly. I told him it was what we were desirous of, and therefore had given the officers commanding our forces down there, orders to hear any reasonable proposals and concert the necessary measures for it. He said that would take up a great deal of time. I therefore advised him, as the speediest method, to send a proper person to Bombay, when things might be quickly adjusted. He said they would consider of what I had told them and how they should act, when I took my leave.

Tuesday, 23rd.—This evening I was again sent for to the Darbár, but nothing further was done than a recapitulation of what had passed yesterday.

Wednesday, 24th.—This afternoon received my superiors' command of the 20th, as follows :—

"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire.

Sir,—The accompanying is a duplicate of our last, and yesterday we received yours of the 14th, in consequence of which you may return hither as soon as you think proper; but as Mr. Brome's staying at Poona, to communicate from time to time what may occur, we are of opinion, will be of use, we would have you leave him there till further orders, which we hope may be done without giving offence to the Marátha Government.

The leopard and lioness you mentioned to the President that would be acceptable to Mádhavráv are now sent you.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Bombay Castle,
20th February 1768.

THOMAS HODGES.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JAMES RYLEY.
BENJAMIN JERVIS."

Thursday, 25th.—This evening Mádhavráv, in order to despatch me again, sent for me, and after setting forth the whole of what passed the 22nd, acquainted me they had fully considered everything and had fixed on Rámáji Chitnis as the person to go to Bombay, and he would set out as soon as their Holi holidays were over. He then told me several complaints had been made to him regarding Angria's sons employing people to plunder the inhabitants of his country, as a proof of which he had some days ago ordered four persons, inhabitants of Bombay, who had been caught, to be delivered up to me, and hoped and expected care would be taken to prevent the like in future, otherwise it would cause a coolness in the friendship at present subsisting between us. I replied, he may rest assured the prisoners he had delivered to me would be punished agreeably to their deserts, for he could not imagine that we would consent to anything of this sort. As they had determined on sending a person to Bombay, I judged my proposing to leave Mr. Brome there agreeably to my superiors' orders might induce them to alter their resolution and prevent their sending any one; however paid them the compliment of his remaining to accompany Rámáji Chitnis to Bombay, but which they politely excused. After sitting some little time and Mádhavráv acquainting me all the orders (excepting the one relating to the Orpár affairs, about which Rámáji Chitnis would have directions) should be sent me and recommending Rámáji might be kindly treated, presented me with a horse and *sirpáv*, on which I took my leave.

Friday, 26th.—This morning wrote my superiors the following address to acquaint them of my proceedings and being despatched :—

"To

The Hon'ble THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—I have been favoured with your Honor and Council's commands of the 18th and 20th instant. Before the receipt of the former the Darbár had enquired of me

the reason of the armament preparing at Bombay and where destined. I informed them against Málvan and Ráiri to recover the money due to us; but on my acquainting them with your resolution of their proceeding against Hyder Alli's possessions, and that you expected they would give such orders to Gopálrav, their officer commanding in those parts, that he in no shape impedes our operations, but, however, if they chose to act in conjunction with us, Messrs. Gwin, Watson and Sibbald had directions for hearkening to any reasonable proposals they had to make, it threw the whole Darbár into the utmost consternation, and I have almost every day since been sent for there. The substance of our conversation has run entirely on their laying claim to the whole of the Bednur and Sounda countries, both on account of their being in possession of part already and intentions of taking the whole as opportunities offer, and the Rája of the former being under their protection. This they have done in the most formal manner, and desired I would acquaint your Honor and Council with it. I told them I believed you were quite unacquainted with any pretensions they might have to those countries, but advised them (as they talked at this extraordinary rate) if they had any thoughts of acting in conjunction with us, either to send orders to Gopálráv to treat with our officers, or, which I thought the most effectual method, send a proper person to Bombay. The last they have agreed to, and last night when they despatched me, informed me they had appointed Rámáji Chitnis, who would proceed as soon as the Holi was over. On their coming to this resolution I judged my proposing Mr. Brome's staying here might be improper and prevent their sending any one; however paid them the compliment of his remaining to accompany him to Bombay, which they politely excused. Mr. Brome will therefore accompany me, which I hope your Honor and Council will not disapprove.

Having procured all the orders regarding the articles I presented to the Darbár, except the one relating to the Orpár affair, which Rámáji Chitnis will bring instructious about, I purpose, agreeably to your Honor and Council's permission, to leave Poona to-morrow. The lioness and leopard, as soon as they arrive, shall be presented to Mádhavráv.

I remain, very respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Poona, 26th February 1768. Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

Saturday, 27th.—Having received all the orders agreeably to Mádhavráv's promise, this afternoon at 3 o'clock set out from Poona and arrived at Bombay on Wednesday, the 3rd March. On my arrival wrote my superiors the following letter, enclosing the several orders:—

"To

The Hon'ble THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—My last respects of the 26th ultimo advised your Honor and Council of my having received my despatches from the Darbár, and agreeably to your permission in your commands of the 20th left Poona the 27th.

Mádhavráv some time before my departure delivered to me four prisoners which his sepoy had taken pilfering in the Marátha country, and as they confessed were employed by Angria's sons now in your possession, he hoped and expected that proper care would be taken to prevent the like in future, otherwise it might cause a coolness in the good harmony and friendship now subsisting between the two states.

Enclosed your Honor and Council will please to receive the six following orders relating to the points I laid before the Darbár, the one regarding Orpár, as I before advised you, I was not able to procure, but Rámáji Chitnis will have directions about it, and Mádhavráv assured me our merchants at Surat should meet with no impediments :—

One order on Visáji Pant for the payment of Rupees thirty thousand nine hundred and fifteen three-quarters and fifty reas, being the amount of losses sustained by our merchants as settled three years ago.

One ditto on Visáji Pant for delivering to Nasarvánji Modi his batela taken three years ago.

One ditto on Visáji Pant for delivering to Byrámji Hormasji a boat of 200 khandis in lieu of his grab taken about seven years ago.

One ditto on Rámáji Pant for rendering up some slaves fled to Sálsette belonging to Mr. Richard Nowland.

One ditto on Moroji Sindia of Chaul for two slaves fled thither belonging to the above gentleman.

One ditto on Wásudev Pant, Governor of Karanja, for removing the fishing stakes fixed by their Kolis within the Bombay limits.

I am,

Bombay, 3rd March 1768. Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

CAPTURE OF SALSETTE.

CAPTURE OF SA'LSETTE.

At a Consultation held on the 12th December 1774, present:

The Hon'ble WILLIAM HORNBY, Esq., President and Governor.

W. M. DANIEL DRAPER.	ROBERT GORDON.
THOMAS MOSTYN.	JOHN WATSON.
BRICE FLETCHER.	WILLIAM TAYLOR.

Read and approved our proceedings under the 6th of December 1774, being our last consultation.

Mr. Thomas Mostyn, having returned from Poona the 9th instant, now takes his place in his standing.

The President, with the concurrence of the other members of the Select Committee acquaints the Board with the proceedings relative to the intended design against the island of Sálsette; their motives for which are now explained to the Board, and the papers with their minutes respecting this affair are all read, and the Board are informed that the forces intended for this service are now ready to proceed. The orders of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, dated the 4th of April 1769, constituting the Select Committee and showing the powers they are invested with, are also read together with the forty-second and forty-third paragraphs of the Company's commands of the 31st of March 1769, and the President then requests the concurrence of the other members in this undertaking, which is so much for the interest of the Hon'ble Company and so agreeable to their repeated orders on the subject.

Messrs. Fletcher and Gordon hereupon desire, it may be minuted, that as they are not members of the Select Committee and have not an opportunity of inspecting the country correspondence, they are not sufficiently acquainted with the policy of the Marátha Government to be enabled properly to judge of the propriety or impropriety of the resolutions that have been taken, though they doubt not but that the Committee have been guided by what appeared to them for the real interest of the Hon'ble Company. As it is a matter, however, of a very important nature, they beg leave to declare they do not esteem themselves in the least responsible for the consequences.

The instructions to Brigadier-General Gordon and to Mr. Watson proceeding on the service against Thána in command of the military and marine forces are now read and approved as entered in the diary of the Select Committee under this date.

W. HORNBY.
D. DRAPER.
T. MOSTYN.
B. FLETCHER.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 12th December 1774.

By 10 o'clock this morning that part of the military force intended to proceed by land to Thána marched out of town commanded by Brigadier-General Gordon.

At 7 P.M. the remainder of the military force intended to proceed to Thána embarked on board sundry boats, and proceeded with the following vessels and gallivats to Thána :— Bomb, "Terrible", "Adam", "Sheriff", Prahm "Triumph", "In. Hall", "Spy", Cutter "Samuel", "Hardy", Gallivat "Otter", "Thomas Buncombe", "Greyhound", Gallivat "Lieutenant Bordace", Gallivat "Lively's Prize", "Nathaniel Smith", "Fly", Gallivats "Skinner" and "Wolf", "Brice" and "Hardy".

John Watson, Esq., Superintendent, embarked on one of the above vessels and proceeded as Commander of the Marine Force to Thána with instructions to the Brigadier-General and himself to consult and co-operate with each other for the good of the service.

Bombay Castle, Friday, 16th December 1774.

A letter was delivered from the Commander of the Portuguese ships now lying off the harbour, of which the following is a translate : —

"To Senhor GOVERNOR GENERAL and the GENTLEMEN of COUNCIL in Bombay.

Notwithstanding the most Illustrious and Excellent Senhor Don Jose Pedro da Camara, Governor and Captain General of the State of India, supposing that the British nation will regulate all their operations in Asia according to the good harmony, alliance, and amity that reciprocally subsist between those two nations, yet by the obligations of the employ in which he is and from some events that are diametrically opposite thereto, the said Captain General ordered me that I should on his part and in his name protest to your Honor and Council against whatever proceedings, contract, expedition, and whatever other negotiation and conquest you may intend on the country which is on this coast of Hindustán, situated from Chaul to Daman, uniting to this protest all others which his predecessors have made on the same subject, making an especial mention of each of them, more particularly that which the Viceroy and Captain General Conde da Ega sent to the Council of Bombay. Recollecting this present protest of all the clauses therein contained, charging your Honor and Council with your being responsible for all that you will deliberate against the present protest, and others that are herein mentioned to the Court of London and for all the satisfaction that may be asked on these points by that of Lisbon.

On board the chief ship 'N. Sur Mandre de Des', anchored at Common Channel of Bombay and the island of Karanja, 16th December 1774."

Bombay Castle, 18th December 1774.

The following letter in reply to that from the Commandant of the Portuguese ships being drawn up and approved was signed and delivered to him :—

"To Senhor JOZE SANDIOS de BRITTO, Commander-in-Chief of the Portuguese ships now lying at anchor off the Harbour of Bombay.

Sir,—We have received a letter from you, dated the 16th December 1774, which we deem it necessary only to reply that for all our proceedings we are responsible to our hon'ble employers in England, to whom, as customary, we shall transmit an ample detail of our transactions, and as it is our wish and desire to cultivate a good understanding with the subjects of your nation in India, we request you will give the necessary assurances accordingly to the Captain General on your return to Goa.

As to the claims of your nation to the countries situated between Chaul and Daman, we are perfectly unacquainted with them. Though part of those countries did formerly belong

to your nation, yet they were taken from you by the Maráthás about seven and thirty years ago. During all the intervening time we have never understood that you even made any attempt to recover them; but if a protest is now necessary, it will be much more proper against the Maráthás, who took them from you, than against us who assisted your nation at that time to defend your possessions with men, stores, and ammunition. By this a great expense was endured, for which the Hon'ble Company have never been reimbursed. We therefore take this opportunity through you again to demand payment from the Captain General at Goa.

And as a vessel belonging to Dhanjisha of Surat, a servant and subject of the Hon'ble English East India Company, was unjustly taken about three years ago and still more unjustly detained by the late Captain General notwithstanding our representations to the contrary, we also through you demand the release of the said vessel, and that the value of everything taken on board her be made good to the owner.

We are,

Your humble Servants,

W. HORNBY,

Governor, and Council.

Bombay Castle, 18th December 1774."

Bombay Castle, 20th December 1774.

As large a detachment as could possibly be spared from this garrison marched off this evening under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating to reduce Versova, a strong fort and outpost on the island of Sálsette on the opposite side of the island from Thána.

Bombay Castle, Sunday, 25th December 1774.

At 2 P.M. arrived Lieutenant McNiel from the detachment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Keating with the news of the surrender of Versova Fort. The particulars of his proceedings and of the capture of the place are comprised in the following six letters from Lieutenant-Colonel Keating to the President:—

"HON'BLE SIR,—I am sorry to acquaint you that our attempt to escalade Versova last night at 8 o'clock has not been attended with success owing totally to the want of proper ladders and regularity in our troops—the former, as I feared, were scarce long enough to reach the top of the wall, the latter by no means obedient to command. I planned the attack in the following manner: Lieutenant Carpenter with forty-six men did, upon our howitzer field pieces beginning to play on the fort, advance close to the walls upon the left, keeping up a constant firing. By firing in this way he drew off the whole attention of the enemy to that quarter, while Ensigns Prosser, Anderson and Gore, who had their orders, advanced with distinct commands each to the escalade of the only part that our ladders could reach. The first had its desired effect, as the enemy never made the least discovery until our ladders were raising. But this was done so clumsily that those that were raised, the enemy, though still very few in that quarter, easily broke and overset them with large stones, and our troops were obliged to give over the attack with the loss only of two Europeans killed, two or three wounded, and three lascars wounded. Had I fourteen bamboo ladders now, eight of thirty-two and six of forty feet long, I could still carry the place; but as making these, I fear, will take up much time, two 18-pounders or even 12-pounders with

two cohorn mortars, with the stores contained in the accompanying list, will reduce the place soon. The garrison are exceedingly intimidated, and have kept up a constant fire ever since we retired, fearing a second attack. Mr. Pemberton will deliver you this and describe our situation.

I have, &c.,
THOMAS KEATING.

Before Versova, 4 o'clock, 23rd December 1774.

"Hon'ble Sir,—I beg you will order 2 petards to be sent immediately. Whichever choice you make in respect to what was contained in mine of this morning may be sent also, but I hope with the help of petards to get in.

I am, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your obliged and obedient Servant,
THOMAS KEATING.

Before Versova, 23rd December 1774.

"Hon'ble Sir,—Nothing can be done but by two 18-pounders—12-pounders might do as well,—but for the sake of expedition I this evening made a second attempt to carry the fort by escalade, but met with so very warm a reception, that our people were obliged to retire with the loss of many wounded and killed—how many I cannot exactly say, perhaps thirty. Ensign Anderson is wounded badly. I have pleasure in assuring you that the troops have made ample amends for their want of regularity last night. This night they are perfectly obedient to command. Had it been so last night we should have carried it easily. To-night the enemy were fully prepared. The particulars I shall acquaint you of to-morrow, and write now chiefly to request the guns, stores, &c., mentioned in my letter of this morning, may be sent as soon as possible.

I have the honor to remain,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your very obliged and obedient Servant,
THOMAS KEATING.

Half past 10 o'clock, 23rd December 1774.

"Hon'ble Sir,—Our loss last night was not so considerable as I imagined, and is as follows :—

Killed.—Infantry one, seaman one, hamáls two.

Wounded.—Artillery eight, infantry six, seamen three, lascars two, and hamáls two.

I mentioned in my indent a sling cart, which is not sent. I hope I shall do without it, though the road is extremely rough. The following stores are wanted :—

Grape for $5\frac{1}{2}''$ howitzers	50
Shells for do.	154
Fuses for do.	170
6-pounder grape	150

6-Pounder wads	300
6-pounder empty cartridges	150
6-pounder tubes	150

I have the honor to remain, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your very obliged Servant,

THOMAS KEATING.

Before Versova, 24th December 1774.

"Hon'ble Sir,—I this moment was honored with yours of 10th this morning. When I wrote you last night, many of our wounded were not brought; so I concluded them killed, but was agreeably disappointed on finding them not even very badly wounded. A list I sent you this day at half past 2 o'clock. Most of our stores are landed and brought up. I am at work for the battery, and should I receive a party from Captain Lioll to assist in raising it, to whom I have sent for that purpose, being so weak, shall be able to open it to-morrow morning; otherwise not, I fear, before Monday morning. When once open I think we shall soon do our business. Should not have made an attack last night but that I found the men in high spirits, and eager for it together with the confidence I placed in the bravery and coolness of Lieutenant Brickell who commanded the party who were first to mount. He did not deceive me though unsuccessful. Our ladders I increased in length to forty-two feet. The petard I found unnecessary; the gate did not require one. Had we got into the work where it was, a maul would have served, and I got one. I thank God I never was better in health. What men the Surgeon thinks require it I now send to the Sepoy Hospital; a list of them enclosed. Wishing you the compliments of the ensuing season,

I remain, with great respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your ever obliged,

THOMAS KEATING.

5 o'clock, 24th December 1774.

"Hon'ble Sir,—Just as the battery was ready to fire at sunrise the enemy sent out a deputation to treat. They had done the same last night, but first wanted five days to consult upon the conditions they wished to have. My answer was, I allowed them one hour and a half, no more. They returned at the time and reduced their demand, first to three days, at last fell to this day at noon. My answer was that I would not allow an hour longer, as it was my business to reduce the fort as soon as possible, theirs to keep it as long as they could. This did not seem to please them. Our battery being finished, and as I suppose not further from the walls than two hundred and twenty yards, has determined them to accept of the terms, a copy of which I now do myself the honor to enclose you, and hope they will prove satisfactory. I despatch this by Lieutenant McNiel, and remain, with the utmost respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your ever obedient Servant,

THOMAS KEATING.

Versova, 25th December 1774, 10 o'clock in the morning."

Articles of surrender of Versova Force to the Company's Forces.

I, Thomas Keating, Lieutenant-Colonel and Commanding Officer of a body of the Hon'ble Company's forces now before the fort of Versova, do promise and agree that upon the surrender of the said fort for the use of my Hon'ble Masters that the officers and inhabitants in the said fort shall enjoy whatever private property of their own there is now in the fort or town; that they shall be permitted to stay in the villages adjacent or retire elsewhere, provided they do not molest in any degree any inhabitants under the protection of the Hon'ble Company; also that they shall have ten fishing boats to carry away themselves and their real property; and, lastly, it is faithfully promised that the Killedár and all others shall furnish to Lieutenant-Colonel Keating a just and true account of whatever is belonging to the Marátha Government now under their care or charge, and deliver the same to such persons as he shall appoint for that purpose.—Done before Versova this 25th day of December 1774.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 26th December 1774.

The whole detachment commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Keating returned, except such part as was left to garrison the fort at Versova.

At a Consultation held on the 27th December 1774, present:

The Hon'ble William Hornby, Esq., President and Governor.

W. Daniel Draper.	Thomas Mostyn.
Brice Fletcher.	William Taylor.

Robert Gordon.

Read and approved our proceedings under the 26th December 1774, being our last consultation.

The President lays before the Board all the letters he has received from the Brigadier-General and Mr. Watson containing an account of the proceedings of the forces before Thána, at the same time acquainting the Board that every supply of stores, guns or ammunition desired by the Brigadier-General for the service was immediately sent him, and, further, as the General in his last letter mentions the want of officers, he this morning sent one captain and four subalterns with fifty-five non-commissioned officers and private men, which is approved; and it is ordered that these letters be entered after this consultation.

We observe by the letters written by Mr. Watson to the President previous to his receiving the unhappy blow which at present disables him from service, that he strongly recommended to the Brigadier-General to attack the two small forts situated a little to the northward of Thána, called Himat and Fatte Buruj, and to destroy the gallivats in the river, his reasons for which are so strong and convincing, and by Mr. Watson's account it appears this service might be so easily effected, that we cannot avoid expressing our surprise at the Brigadier-General not concurring in Mr. Watson's proposition. For it is evident that by having those forts in our possession the enemy's receiving any supplies would be effectually prevented, whereas it seems they are at present supplied with what men and stores they stand in need of, which must certainly prolong the siege, if not prevent our success; and we deem it here not foreign to remark that the success which lately attended the party sent against Versova Fort under

Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, as already minuted on the 25th instant, appeared to be strictly owing to that officer having taken effectual means to cut off all supplies from being received into that fort, together with the two spirited assaults he made upon it.

As the reading of the above papers and the conversation on them has taken much time, and it is now late, it is agreed to adjourn, and to meet again this evening, by which time it is hoped we shall receive some further intelligence from Thána.

Adjourned.

GEORGE SKIPP,
Secretary.

W. HORNBY.
D. DRAPER.
T. MOSTYN.
B. FLETCHER.

Bombay Castle, 27th December 1774.

At three P.M. John Watson, Esq., departed this life, occasioned by the wounds he received before Thána on the 21st instant.

At a Consultation held on the 27th December 1774, at 6 P.M., present :

The Hon'ble WILLIAM HORNBY, Esq., President and Governor.
W. DANIEL DRAPER. | THOMAS MOSTYN.
BRICE FLETCHER. | WILLIAM TAYLOR.
ROBERT GORDON.

Met to resume the consideration of the present situation of our forces before Thána, when the President lays before us a letter he has just received from the Brigadier-General, dated at half-past 11 o'clock this morning, wherein he says that he is fully sensible of the importance of cutting off all succour from the enemy, but pleads the want of a sufficient force to effect it, though we must observe that there has seldom been a superior force than what is now before Thána at the attack of any of the many places that have been carried by the Company's forces in India, and often not nearly equal to it. However as it is now become absolutely necessary to prevent the enemy from receiving succour any longer, which cannot otherwise be effected than by gaining possession of the two small forts to the northward of Thána, it is therefore taken under consideration in what manner to effect it.

Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, who is at present commanding officer in this garrison, is sent for that we may have his sentiments on the present situation of affairs at Thána, as well as to know what further force can possibly be spared from hence.

The Lieutenant-Colonel having come accordingly, he is made acquainted with every thing proper, and asked his opinion upon the whole, when he declares that the necessity of taking the two small forts in question is so obvious to him ; that he thinks a point ought to be strained to effect it ; and if the Bhandári Militia is called in to do the garrison duty, we may spare two hundred and fifty infantry, artillery and sepoys, which, with the number sent off this morning to join the forces at Thána, will make full three hundred men, which, he concurs with the late Mr. Watson in opinion, will be sufficient for the purpose ; and this force he offers his services to command and to proceed to the attack of the two forts in question. Lieutenant-Colonel Keating then withdrew.

Upon mature consideration of the foregoing it is resolved to detach two hundred and fifty men from hence under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating for the purpose of effecting the reduction of these two forts only, of which the Brigadier-General must be acquainted, and

ordered to put the reinforcement sent him this morning under Colonel Keating's orders, and to afford this officer and his detachment every support and assistance Colonel Keating may request of him.

When this service is effected, Colonel Keating with the whole detachment he carries from hence must return, as nothing but the unavoidable necessity of the measure can justify our sending at present this number of men from the garrison.

The two forts when taken are to be delivered to the General's charge, and Colonel Keating must take a survey of the works before Thána and of the fort, if not then in our possession, that he may be able to give us the requisite information regarding both on his return.

Messrs. Fletcher and Gordon think it proper here to remark that though they acquiesce in sending Colonel Keating with the body of men agreed on as above, yet they do not mean thereby to make themselves in the least responsible for this business; but as the expedition against Sálsette was undertaken by the Select Committee which composed a majority of the Board and it is actually set on foot, they think themselves in duty to the Company bound to render every service in their power towards bringing it to a happy conclusion, and in this light they shall continue to give their advice and opinion in any matters relative to this business that may come before the Board.

The Secretary presents to the Board the foul draft of the letter to the Governor-General and Council at Fort William, which is approved and ordered to be fair transcribed.

Adjourned.

WILLIAM HORNBY.
D. DRAPER.
T. MOSTYN.
B. FLETCHER.

Letters from Brigadier-General GORDON *to the* PRESIDENT.

Hon'ble Sir,—After a most fatiguing and long march in the heat of the day through very rugged ground we arrived in the neighbourhood of this place about three o'clock in the afternoon. The troops were very much depressed by the heat, yet I judge it necessary to push on and take possession of the town. The troops proceeded with the utmost alacrity through a hot fire of the enemy, both of great guns and musketry, which they took no manner of notice of, or even returned one shot till they got possession of the town and Darbár. We are now lodged in the Portuguese church. We have also got possession of the principal houses of the town. The distance from Sion to this place has been very much misrepresented, and the difficulties in the course of the march have been inconceivable. Neither Mr. Watson nor any of the troops are as yet arrived. The officers and men being greatly fatigued we have just taken the necessary measures to secure our posts for the night, as nothing essential can be done till our battering cannon and intrenching tools arrive. The Drum Major of the first battalion, a Grenadier, and two sepoys are wounded.

I am,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 4 o'clock, afternoon,
13th December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—About 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon I despatched a pattamár to you to acquaint you of our proceedings. Since which Mr. Watson and Colonel Egerton with the rest of the troops are arrived, and part of our stores are already in our possession. Upon our approach to the town of Thána we found all the inhabitants had deserted their houses and fled, having been summoned to the fort by the Killedár the day we marched from Bombay. All the Portuguese and some Gentoos, &c., are gone to the mountains. We issued placards in the villages through which we passed, and have sent people with them in quest of those who are fled, that they may be acquainted as soon as possible with the protection that will be afforded them. The enemy kept up a pretty smart fire all last night, but with little success. Enclosed is a list of the killed and wounded. By the different posts which we have taken possession of, all communication with the posts to the southward is cut off. The passage to Kalva is now under the fire of our musketry, and as soon as the night sets in, a battery of the enemy's, of which we have taken possession, will, by the addition of an epaulement, have the entire command of this passage. The other avenues of the town are blocked up. The enemy made two sallies opposite to the Darbár last night where Captain Stuart is posted, but they were instantly repulsed by our post which are advanced under cover to the edge of the esplanade. Mr. Watson is returned to the landing place, which is at a considerable distance from the town, to land the rest of our stores. When he left me, that no time might be lost, I gave him a list of ordnance and stores which we want, and I beg they may be sent as soon as possible, as we want them much. I should wish that two 12-pounders with battery carriages and a sufficient quantity of stores should be added, as the enemy seem inclined to be obstinate.

A quantity of pice was found in the mint. I ordered Mr. Robert Taylor to take charge of it. We shall be in want of a considerable sum of money for purchasing many things which we shall be in immediate want of. I request you will send us a proper supply as soon as possible. I have sent to collect labourers, of which we shall want a great number to complete our batteries, and as these people must be paid daily, I have appointed Mr. Robert Taylor to act as paymaster, and I beg leave warmly to recommend him to you as a very proper person to take charge of the money to be sent over. Upon our arrival here I sent a summons of surrender to the Governor of the fort, who took no notice of it, and returned our letters unopened.

I remain, with respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Portuguese Church at Thána,
Wednesday, 14th December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—Yesterday evening about 8 o'clock I was favoured with your letter, dated ¾ past 1 o'clock, 14th December.

I am informed that the boat with the battering cannon is arrived at the landing place. Mr. Watson is gone down to get them ashore, and all our bigaris are employed in making the road; but the small number of these people which we have, distresses and retards us much in carrying on the service, as instead of one hundred and fifty we ought to have at least five hundred for the different purposes for which they are required. The country people seem afraid to work for us, lest the Maráthás should burn their houses. The epaulement was finished in the night, and a 12-pounder now effectually commands the passage to Kalva.

I am sorry to tell you that the rice sent for the sepoys is so bad that it cannot be served out. I have directed the Commissary to take the speediest method of getting a supply of this essential article.

I have heard of two hundred Marátha horse whose retreat into the fort was cut off by a detachment which got betwixt them and the town. They have been plundering the villages. I have ordered a detachment to be in readiness to march to try to surprise them this evening, and I have promised that any horses taken from them shall be the property of the person who takes them.

As soon as our heavy artillery stores and intrenching tools are got up we shall begin our batteries, and we shall get them completed in as short a time as possible. I hope you have been pleased to order the two 24-pounders and the two 12-pounders with the other stores which were applied for yesterday to be sent as soon as can be done.

The fire from the fort has been more slack last night than it was the night before. It has had very little effect, as one European only is wounded. He has lost his leg. Three sepoys are slightly hurt with musketry.

The two harkárás arrived here this morning.

About four hours ago we heard some firing of cannon, which seemed from the sound to be from the northward.

Several Portuguese pátíls of villages have applied for protection, which I have given them: they have promised to bring provisions to market, for which I shall take care that they are regularly and fairly paid.

I am,

Honourable Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ROBERT GORDON.

Portuguese Church at Thána, Thursday, 2 o'clock, 15th December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—Your letter at 11 o'clock A.M. of the 15th I received last night at 11 o'clock, and that dated 7 o'clock P.M. reached me about 2 this morning.

We shall have three 24-pounders and 18-pounders and two howitzers and 8-inches up this day. We shall begin in an hour to fill sand bags and prepare every material for our batteries, in order that having every thing ready, when once we begin to make them they may be completed in the shortest possible time. I hope the other two 24 and 12-pounders will arrive this day.

I have ordered Captain McLellan to reconnoitre a small fort to the northward, and to assault it if he thinks it can be done with a prospect of success. He is also to patrol as far as the village of Marol, and to attack any cavalry that he may meet.

Mr. Martin arrived here last night with the money, but I shall not use any of that till the pice, of which we have found a large quantity here, is expended.

The fears of the country people operate too powerfully on them to permit them to work. I have therefore no reliance on them for assistance in the service.

The enemy's fire, though much the same as yesterday, has done us very little damage.

I am,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Portuguese Church at Thána,
Friday, 16th December 1774.

P.S.—I am told that Mirza could procure twenty good horsemen. If so, they might be useful to patrol the country.

Hon'ble Sir,—In my letter of yesterday I informed you that I had ordered Captain McLellan to patrol towards Marol, and to reconnoitre the fort to the northward. He marched on this service with a company of sepoy Grenadiers. About a mile and a half from the town he fell in with about eighty horse and four or five hundred foot, who were immediately attacked, and after a pretty smart brush the enemy were driven from all their posts. Upon quitting the village, into which the horse had thrown themselves, they set fire to it. In executing this service a serjeant and nine sepoys were wounded and two killed. The affair of yesterday has had this good effect, that a patrol has this morning made a circuit all round the town, at the distance of about a mile, without seeing a man of the enemy's. The fort to the northward is so situated that it cannot be attacked without risking the lives of a number of men, as the approach to it is flanked to the right by the whole fire of a tower and courtain, and on the left by some gallivats.

We shall begin our batteries this evening, and I hope by Monday morning to be able to open with our whole fire, as I am determined not to fire a shot till I have every gun and mortar in battery and ready for the attack.

The other guns and stores which you sent after us are arrived.

The enemy fired briskly last night, but they did us no sort of harm, as we have got so near the walls that they find it difficult to bring their guns from their lofty towers to bear on us.

Half a dozen coehorns with a proper proportion of shells, if they can be sent, will add much to the galling fire which must harass the enemy and draw their attention from the point of attack.

I have ordered a Káfri to be sent down in irons. He came in and claimed protection, and afterwards was taken under arms. He deserved to be hanged, but I did not choose by an act of justice to alarm the inhabitants, who, not knowing the cause, would have deemed it an act of severity or perhaps cruelty; but there can be no harm in putting him on the works for life.

Inclosed are indents from the Chief Engineer and Commanding Officer of Artillery for some small stores, which I request you will be pleased to order to be sent up as soon as possible. You will observe in Major Lee's indent that he demands the six coehorns.

I am,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 17th December 1774, 1 o'clock.

Hon'ble Sir,—I have this minute received yours, dated at 10 o'clock, this afternoon. The forts of Himat and Fatte Buruj are upwards of half a mile from the bed of the river; consequently they could not command it. On a post at such a distance from the centre of our troops no less number than one hundred Europeans and one hundred sepoys would have sufficed, and from the judgment I have formed of the importance of such a post I am of opinion these troops may be much better employed elsewhere to complete our batteries, as there must be many hands wanted. The reduction of the fort is our grand object. To effect that our force must be united. Our detachments drive the enemy wherever they meet them; but even in beating them we lose men and harass the survivors. I am therefore resolved to carry on the siege with the utmost vigour and with all my force. The fort once taken the inferior posts will fall, and we may then with propriety make large detachments, but not till then.

The prisoners sent down are either people who were taken under arms against us or suspected persons. Under the latter description are three, who say they came from Bombay to make trade, but who were detected in walking about our advanced posts, though expressly told that they had no business there and that they must not go that way. I wrote to you particularly about a Káfri who is sent down.

Mr. Watson recommended Mirza to me as a man who could get twenty good horsemen. I know nothing about him myself, but was led to mention him from the above recommendation, as I think such a body if they could be got would be useful in effecting the reduction of the island. If Mirza is an improper or incapable person the fault is not mine.

You may rely on my straining every sinew to get the batteries ready as soon as possible. So soon as could be wished is impossible. But I have the satisfaction to find every officer and soldier is zealous in the service as I can wish them, and therefore I can rely on their best endeavours to promote it.

Some Marátha horse appeared last night at Kalva, a few of them were killed by a 12 pounder which commands that village, the others galloped off after setting fire to the village; this I suppose was the fire you saw.

The bigaris are not yet arrived. If they come this evening they will be of great use to us.

I enclose a list of the men who were killed and wounded on the attack with Captain McLellan yesterday morning. I am sorry to inform you that several of the wounded are very dangerously hurt, amongst whom is a very good serjeant.

I am,

Sir,

Your most humble and obedient Servant,

ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 17th December 1774, Saturday, 5 o'clock.

Hon'ble Sir,—At five this afternoon I was favoured with yours at midday of this date.

The Engineer, Captaiu Nelson, has promised that our batteries shall be ready by to-morrow morning. He has every aid to effect this that he has demanded. A working party of a hundred men are ready to join those now at work if he can employ them. A few hours hence I shall be better able to judge if he can comply with his engagements; if he does not, it shall not be my fault, as I have done whatever depended on me.

The informations you had received respecting the fort, roads, &c., have proved very erroneous. The fort is very strong, and on the conducting of the siege my character is at stake. Whatever therefore can promote this first object shall be pursued with the most unwearied diligence. I have explained myself fully to you respecting detachments—large ones—at present. I cannot make small ones to expose our arms to loss and disgrace.

One of our 24-pounders has driven the gallivats from their station. Our batteries and Grenadiers will, I trust, have the same effect on whatever forces they have in the fort.

The men who are dangerously wounded cannot be removed without risking their lives. The others may soon be fit for service.

A quantity of rice, much more than sufficient for immediate consumption, has been sent up. I beg no more may be sent till demanded, as we find much difficulty in furnishing parties to bring it from the boats which lie at a considerable distance from our magazines.

I am,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most humble Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, Sunday, 19th December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—I have the pleasure to inform you that at 10 o'clock this morning our batteries opened before Thána. We go on very well and I hope soon to take off their defences wherever they are. We shall begin to batter in breach.

A shot from the fort has just this instant killed two and wounded two Artillerymen.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Battery before Thána, 20th December 1774,
¼ past 10 o'clock.

P.S.—Another man is just killed.

Hon'ble Sir,—I have just been favoured with yours dated 9 o'clock, 20th December, at 5 this morning.

Our batteries go on very well, but the towers are of very hard stone and excellent masonry, and they will take a great deal of battering. Wherever our guns are brought to bear, the enemy are driven from theirs. Many of our fuses are very bad, which renders our bombardment of much less effect than it would otherwise be. This is the second time the service has suffered from such unpardonable neglect; at Broach it was just the same, notwithstanding that there are two officers paid for attending the laboratory.

I am very sorry to inform you that Mr. Watson has just got covered with dust and small stones thrown up by a shot from the enemy. He is wounded in the arm but not dangerously. His eyes are filled with dust; his forehead a little scratched and his leg bruised.

Our loss since my last has been very small. A corporal of Infantry and a lascar are killed and two sepoys wounded. As the pice which is found here will not pass current, if you approve of it I will order it to be sent to Bombay, where it may be re-coined. I sent you a

list of some stores which it is propable we shall want. I beg therefore you will order them with the utmost despatch.

I remain, with respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most humble Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Batteries before Thána, 21st December 1774,
10 o'clock A.M.

P.S.—Our battery at first opening consisted of four 24-pounders, to which we have added another 24-pounder, and at some further distance from that we ordered last night a battery for two guns, one of 18 and one 12-pounder. We judge our distance from the fort to be from two hundred and fifty three to three hundred yards. We suspect there is a ditch.

Hon'ble Sir,—I have now the pleasure to inform you that the defences of two of the towers and a courtain are taken off and we have begun to batter in breach with success, as we can already see day-light through the wall of the parapet.

As our accounts differed respecting there being a ditch or not, I ordered that point which was of much importance in the conducting of the siege to be examined into. This was accordingly done by Captain McLellan, who sounded the ditch. It is about fifteen feet deep and twenty wide and in very good repair.

We have suffered very little these last twenty-four hours from the enemy's fire.

Mr. Watson has had a very indifferent night, but he has now got a good sleep and is much easier this morning. It is feared part of the stone is lodged in his arm, but the surgeons apprehend no danger from the wound: his eyes are better than they were.

Lieutenant Arthur Jones' exceeding bad health renders it necessary for him to return to Bombay. He is a young man of much spirit, but he has a wretched constitution. We can ill spare officers, as we feel infinite inconvenience from the want of a proper number of European subalterns for our sepoys. Without one to each company, posts of importance cannot be trusted to them, nor their services depended on.

Our troops are in high spirits, and I doubt not but, that when the breach is ready, they will do every thing that can be expected from them, as I never saw men show more steadiness than they did in entering the town.

Before we can assault, the ditch must be filled up. This necessarily adds to the dangers and difficulties which we have to encounter with, and retards the reduction of the fort.

A Mr. Murray came here to offer his services as a volunteer. His character is so bad for drinking with and debauching the soldiers at Bombay, that I would not receive him and have ordered him back to Bombay.

I remain, respectfully,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most humble Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 22nd December 1774.

P.S.—I beg you will be so good as to order the stores indented for yesterday to be sent up as soon as possible as we have already used 76 out of the 90 barrels of gunpowder we brought along with us. Be so good as to order likewise 500 rounds of 24 lb. round shot.

R. G.

Hon'ble Sir,—Your letter of the 22nd at 9 o'clock in the morning reached me at 6 yesterday evening. I am very glad to hear that so much despatch is made in sending off the stores for us, as our powder is almost expended.

Our breaching batteries go on very well, and will, I hope, soon have the full effect that we wish from them.

Your informer, respecting the shells thrown from the left and rear of Captain Stuart's post, has had the misfortune to tell you the exact reverse of truth. Many of these shells were thrown over the fort; but as the officers who had charge of these mortars had positive orders to throw their fire in a particular line, where the fort was very narrow, some shells going over is not at all surprising. They effected the purpose they were intended for, namely, to draw the enemy from our real point of attack, entirely to my satisfaction.

A large body of the enemy, supposed to be about eight hundred, made a brisk attack on our posts this morning, but we were everywhere prepared for them and they were repulsed with a considerable loss. One of their subhedárs is wounded and taken prisoner. We had a subhedár and one sepoy killed and one European and eight sepoys wounded.

I am,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most humble Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

P.S.—Mr. Watson left this place about noon and I suppose will be with you this evening.

Hon'ble Sir,—I am to inform you that as the breach appears practicable for an assault, I last night ordered an attempt to be made to fill up the ditch, but the lascars and bigaris who carried the fascines and sand bags no sooner received a few shots than they threw down their loads. I directed a second attempt to be made, and offered a large reward to the lascars, and they went on again but returned as speedily on being fired on, so that I was obliged to desist for the present.

As on our approach to the walls the enemy fired two guns from the flank of the bastion against which our attack is directed, I find it necessary to order another battery to be constructed to take off. This will be done this night, and it will much facilitate our approach in filling up the ditch, on which service I shall be obliged to employ Europeans.

I send indents for some stores which we shall want, and I beg they may be sent as soon as possible.

Colonel Egerton has been very ill for several days, and it is judged absolutely necessary for his recovery that he should return to Bombay, and as soon as his health will permit he desires to join the army again, which I hope he will soon be able to do.

The enemy have not molested us in the least since the repulse they met with yesterday morning. Many of them have crossed the river at some distance above the fort, but there is still a considerable body on this side.

Every effort shall be made to effect the service as soon as possible.

The powder arrived this morning. When it did, we had not above four or five rounds to each gun remaining.

We have a good number of men on the sick list, exclusive of the wounded. The flux is the principal complaint amongst them, arising from their great fatigue.

In the attempt which was made last night there was only one lascar and two or three bigaris slightly wounded. A company of Grenadiers, which entirely covered and protected them, suffered no loss whatever though advanced close to the counters.

The powder barrels in general run very short of weight. Instead of 100 lbs. they rarely exceed 85, and sometimes not above 80 pounds.

I am, with respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most humble Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 24th December 1774, ½ past 10 A.M.

Hon'ble Sir,—I informed you yesterday morning of the attempt which we had made without success to fill up the ditch, and that I should be under the necessity of employing Europeans on this service. Accordingly a party of two hundred soldiers and thirty seamen, covered by the 2nd Grenadier Company, advanced to the counter scarp, loaded with fascines and sand bags. They persisted in the work for nearly two hours with the utmost steadiness under a most galling and incessant fire from the breach. But our loss in killed and wounded was so great, that I was obliged to order them to retreat before the passage across the ditch could be completed. While the working party were employed, the batteries kept up a constant fire on the enemy's works, but the grape shot could not be directed towards the breach without hurting our own people; consequently the enemy were enabled to keep their ground there.

You will see by the return enclosed how heavily the loss has fallen on the Grenadiers, who did everything that men could do.

To make another attempt of the same kind would be throwing away the lives of many gallant men. Nothing therefore remains but to proceed by sap. This will be tedious, but it must be done unless some part of the great tower which is to be battered down fills up the ditch. I send you the Engineer's sentiments on this head, and lists of the stores wanted by him and the Commanding Officer of Artillery, which I beg may be sent as soon as possible. Our force is not sufficient to occupy all the posts necessary to form a complete blockade, reserving a sufficient number to furnish working parties, guards to protect our batteries and stores, and at the same time to be prepared as well for attacks from within as from without. Could a blockade be formed, all chance of retreat or relief being cut off from the enemy would dispirit them exceedingly.

You can best judge how far it would be possible to furnish me with some more force to effect this. I can only say, that the stronger we are the sooner we shall be able to succeed. Thána once taken our whole strength exerted against the weaker places would enable us more speedily in my opinion to effect the reduction of the whole.

The wounded officers, and such of the men as can be removed, proceed to Bombay in boats.

The loss we suffered last night gives one the greatest uneasiness both on account of the sufferers and the great diminution which it is to our strength. But military operations cannot be conducted without being exposed to such accidents.

Had we been happy enough to have succeeded in filling up the ditch, I had everything prepared for the assault immediately or soon after.

I remain, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

Thana, 25th December 1774. ROBERT GORDON.

P.S.—We are now much distressed for want of officers from the number that are wounded. Mr. Lane delivered me your letters of yesterday about 12 o'clock last night.

R. G.

To

ROBERT GORDON, Esquire,

Brigadier-General and Commander-in-Chief.

Sir,—Agreeably to your orders I have considered our present situation and the extreme hazard with which the filling up the ditch before the breach is attended, the army being far from sufficient to furnish so large working parties as are necessarily wanted in carrying on regular approaches. Therefore should such a resolution take place, our work would go on extremely slow, as the bigaris are not to be depended on where any steadiness is required. What I would therefore advise at present is totally to destroy the south-east tower by battering the same as soon as possible and rendering it unserviceable to the enemy. The rubbish of the same would greatly facilitate the filling up the ditch before the breach, and should it by that means still not be entirely effected, yet by the said tower being rendered incapable of annoying us, an approach may then be made along the side of a loose stone wall which leads to Batterdean (?) across the ditch, and which possibly afterwards may be pierced in order to let the water out of the ditch; but which possibly cannot be effected at present, as the plunging fire from the tower entirely prevents any approach that way; further every part of the parapets of the whole front of the attack ought to be entirely laid smooth with the same plain as the ramparts to prevent the enemy being covered by those defences, and this should absolutely be completed before any further material movement is undertaken.

Lastly another breach may be made in the bastion on the left of the attack, by which means a storm may be afterwards made in two places at once.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

LAWRENCE NILSON,

Chief Engineer.

Hon'ble Sir,—Yesterday morning I received your letter dated ¼ past 11 at night, 25th December 1774.

You will please to observe from the whole tenor of my letters to you that I am fully sensible of the importance of cutting off all succour from the enemy and that nothing but the want of a sufficient force to effect that (having due attention at the same time to the other part of the service), has prevented my occupying every post which could tend to straiten their quarters or to intimidate them. But liable as our posts are to be attacked from without as well as within, they must be strong; consequently fewer can be taken possession of.

Our batteries play with their whole fire on the large tower, and the other objects of our attack, but the masonry is of an excellent kind, and requires more fire to demolish it than any work I ever saw.

Last night our shell blew up a small magazine, and destroyed the Portuguese church within the fort, and just to the left of the breach.

We have sustained no loss these twenty-four hours, nor have the enemy attacked any of our posts though they are hovering all around us.

I am glad to hear Versova is delivered up. The accounts of it which the enemy here must have received seem to have no effect on them.

I have just heard that some of the stores are arrived. I hope the whole will soon arrive, particularly the ammunition, as our expenditure must necessarily be very great.

I am,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 27th December 1774.

P.S.—Inclosed is a return of the killed and wounded and died of their wounds from the 13th to 25th instant for the Military Paymaster.

Letters from John Watson *to the* President.

Hon'ble Sir,—I have the pleasure to acquaint you this place is closely invested on the Sálsette side and this night Kalva will be taken possession of or burnt. There is a terrible fire kept up from the fort. It would seem they have plenty of ammunition thus to throw it away idly. They have all the sport to themselves. We have not fired one great shot. Indeed we had no guns up till this morning. Our loss is two killed and the same number wounded.

The General got into town about 2 o'clock yesterday. If our boats had been even indifferently manned for rowing, we should have invested the place by 8 o'clock in the morning. We have a most excellent landing place up a creek about 4 miles from the town (the only one). I have been with the General this morning. He desired you would be pleased to send the stores as per enclosed indent, and I think there is a likelihood they may be found necessary; also if you will be pleased to send 6 pieces of timber, about 12 inches square and 30 long, for sleepers to land the large guns: these as soon as possible, as I hope the heavy Artillery will be up here this evening.

We also want money to distribute where necessary for encouragement. I have ordered a gallivat to cruise between Trombay and Butcher's Island for the protection of any boats coming.

I have only to add that

I am, with the greatest respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
JOHN WATSON.

Thána, Landing place, 14th December 1774, at 12 o'clock.

HON'BLE SIR,—We are all well and hard at work. There is not an artificer to be found about Thána. Ten or twelve carpenters and five or six smiths will, I believe, be much wanted. The enemy expend ammunition fast, but to no purpose. We have lost but one man.

The vessels will be ordered to storm the water-fort this morning. They are close up to it, and no shot has been exchanged for some time. Probably they are wounded.

I am, with respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Thána, Landing place, 15th December 1774, 9 A.M. JOHN WATSON.

HON'BLE SIR,—There are no ship carriages for the battering cannon. I request you will be pleased to despatch them with the greatest expedition, as the travelling carriages cannot be used in the batteries. You will also be pleased to order one hundred rounds more of round shot for each of the battering cannon. I hope we shall have all the battering cannon in camp by the morning.

Five salting boxes are wanted for the mortars.

I am, with respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
JOHN WATSON.
Thána, Landing place, 15th December 1774, 9 A.M.

HON'BLE SIR,—I was last night favoured with both yours of the 15th, one by the hands of Mr. Martin, the other by the pattamár. I think it is likely we shall want all the stores. I did propose to the General to take part up Kalva, but he did not choose to seperate his force. I then ordered Sheriff to land in the night of the 14th and set fire to the village, which had so good an effect that the three southern forts were evacuated, as the men in them were apprehensive that their retreat might be cut off. They are now in possession of our people. I shall send away most of the gallivats and boats this day. The cannon was all landed yesterday and the 24-pounder was brought up to the town. I believe the General intends investing the place closely this day and lend his thoughts to the northward of the fort. There is much want of working people as the parapets of the batteries must be carried very high.

I am, with great respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Thána, 16th December 1774. JOHN WATSON.

HON'BLE SIR,—I addressed you this morning and immediately went out with a party to the northward of the town and fell in with an encampment of the enemy of about sixty horse and three or four hundred foot. A reinforcement was sent and they were dispersed. A part of the horse was driven into the tower and some of them crossed the river above Fatte Buruj. I observed eight or ten gallivats, which I suppose were sent from Bassein. This skirmish happened under the fire of the Fort Fatte Buruj and the gallivats, but there was not a man hurt by the

cannon. I believe we had ten or twelve sepoys wounded and a sepoy serjeant. That part of the town is still open to the enemy. The cavalry marched very leisurely from the fort by the river side and crossed above Fatte Buruj this evening, and have set fire to the opposite village.

I proposed to the General to burn or take the gallivats to-morrow morning at day-light and storm Himat or Fatte Buruj, which would cut off all communication, as we are in possession of the southern forts. But he says it will be interfering with the grand objects, though I think cutting off every hope of succour would be an essential point.

We have got three 24-lbs. and one 18-lbs. up to the tower, but I do not expect the batteries will be ready before Sunday. There is a ditch all round the land side, about twenty feet broad and ten deep with six or eight feet water, and the walls are about 36 feet high, as I learned from a Portuguese who was a head artificer at building it.

I am, with great respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
JOHN WATSON.

Thána, 16th December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—I wrote to you late last night. Nothing extraordinary has since happened. I believe the gallivats to the northward of the fort are gone, still there is no attack upon Himat Buruj.

I have enclosed an indent for stores for the small forts to render them of some service to us.

I am, with respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
JOHN WATSON.

Thána, 17th December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—I have just now received your favor of this morning 10 o'clock, and am heartily glad to hear the Portuguese have protested, as it confirms our conjectures.

I am sorry to say those important places are considered by the General as unworthy his notice, as he says he only attends to the grand object. I offered with 300 men and 2 field pieces to destroy the gallivats and take those forts, but was told it was marshy and muddy ground and unfit to march in, though horse can pass and repass, and I saw the enemy come up directly from the gallivats and Fatte Buruj towards us the morning we were out.

Twenty gallivats are now in sight coming from Bassein River. If there is a possibility of their being furnished with succour to defeat our purposes they have free leave to receive them.

Several boats laden and a number of unarmed men have passed out of the fort this day. I can say no more, but that I am sorry to see the enemy have still a free communication open.

The fire you saw was the village opposite to Kalva fired by the enemy. I know not what that fire may be opposite to or near the tunnel.

I am, with great respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
JOHN WATSON.

Thána, 17th December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—I was favoured with yours of this day at noon about six in the evening. On those gallivats appearing I again represented to the General the great evils that might arise by not possessing ourselves of the forts to the northward, but was answered it was impracticable, and the opinion of the Colonels was taken. I was present, but offered no opinion, but only represented the consequences there were both for and against us. As by having them the enemy would be prevented effectually from receiving any succour, and by not having them the enemy might possibly receive such succour as might baffle our designs and bring disgrace on the whole. Not one of the gentlemen have the least local knowledge of the ground, yet they pronounced the impracticability of an assault from the badness of the ground to approach them, and this only from Captain McLellan's report, who saw it only at a distance the other day when we were out. I have no doubt the men might in some places be mid-leg deep in mud. If that is a sufficient check, adieu to all spirited service. The events of war are uncertain; nothing therefore should be omitted which appears essentially necessary. Except the Surat business I never saw any like this. I shall not be easy till we get into the place. Three hundred horse have appeared to the northward of the fort, and four more gallivats have joined the former. There is a report that they intend with the horse and a large body of foot to beat up our quarters this morning. I can hardly credit it. At 6 o'clock they began to work on the batteries on the south front, but they will not be finished before Tuesday morning, when I hope they will be ready for opening. The enemy have set fire to the houses directly fronting the fort. I can't learn the reason of it. I am glad to hear you have sent a party to keep the enemy in check at Versova and wish I was with them. I have received the stores for the small forts. The firing from them serves just to amuse the enemy and draw off their attention. They are very bad gunners, and have only hit the forts with one or two shots. They throw several small shells and some stone ones, but seemingly with little judgment. They have plenty of ammunition. When we open the batteries a judgment may then be formed of their conduct and courage. I think we ought to have many more coehorns. I have hinted it, but the General declines asking for more, though I believe he would not be displeased to have them. A proportionate number of shells should accompany them.

I am, with great respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN WATSON.

Thána, 18th December 1774.

P.S.—How did Forde cross a morass, waddle through the ditch at Masulipatam, mount a breach, and make four hundred Europeans prisoners ?[1]

Hon'ble Sir,—Part of the batteries and three platforms were laid last night and the remainder will be perfected this night, and hope by day-light we shall open them like thunder. We have not yet had a man hurt at that work.

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[1] On the 7th April, 1759, the fort of Masulipatam was stormed by 346 Europeans and 1,400 native soldiers under the command of Colonel Forde. There were 500 Europeans in the fort, with 120 pieces of cannon, but the defence was feeble in the extreme.

I see a number of the enemy encamped to the northward, but to what amount I cannot learn. But suppose they belong to the gallivats lying there.

I am, with respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
JOHN WATSON.

Thána, 19th December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—I received your favour of the 20th at 9 P.M. This morning, about four, our battery of four guns opened about 10 o'clock, and at 12 the enemy left off firing. We have added two more guns to the battery. Last night our guns are pointed to take off the defences. The enemy were very quiet last night. Their gallivats are still in the river. From appearances and our method I do not expect we shall be so soon in the fort as was expected. Whilst those forts are in their possession they receive relief into the tower. As equal numbers are soon to pass in and go out, and as the General will not storm them, I think you ought to run all risks to send in the Grab "Terrible" and some pattamárs full manned for rowing them or assisting them should they get aground. In short, the importance of this service seems every day greater to me. Therefore I would take this liberty of recommending it, and to spare no expense to procure good and sufficient pistols.

They have began their fire this morning, but it will be soon silenced again.

I am, with great respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
JOHN WATSON.

Thána, 21st December 1774, 7 o'clock.

Letters from Earn Veale Lane to the President.

Hon'ble Sir,—This morning a cannon ball came through an old wall near which Mr. Watson was. It drove the dust into his eyes, and a stone struck him on the arm, which accident prevents him from doing himself the pleasure of writing to you. He therefore has desired me to acquaint your Honor, that the three men now sent down prisoners are the Marátha tax-gatherers of Curke village, and having distressed the inhabitants much since our arrival, they on Monday brought them hither, and in consequence they were confined.

On the opening of our batteries yesterday about 10 o'clock A.M. the enemy fired smartly, by which they killed and wounded five or six of the Artillery, but in about two hours they were pretty well silenced. To-day they have fired two guns. Two of their embrasures are knocked into one, and many of the enemy are leaving the fort with their bundles.

I am, with respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most obedient and humble Servant,
EARN VEALE LANE.

Thána, 21st December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—Mr. Watson this morning was favoured with your obliging letter of yesterday, and totally agrees with your Honor respecting the grab, &c., and hopes there will now be no occasion, as the great round tower with all the enemy's defences were demolished or laid open last night, and early this morning we began to batter in breach. The engineers are in hopes that a practicable one will be made by to-morrow's dawn, when it is thought we shall get possession without much opposition.

As the bruise in Mr Watson's arm is very troublesome, the bone being touched (which renders his going out of the house impossible) he has requested me to acquaint you that as soon as our troops have taken the fort he will take the liberty to return to Bombay.

I am, with great respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obliged humble Servant,

EARN VEALE LANE.

Thána, 22nd December 1774, 1 o'clock P.M.

Bombay Castle, 28th December 1774.

The body of the late John Watson, Esq., was interred this morning in the burying ground without the town, being attended by the principal inhabitants. Every public honor due on this occasion to his rank and merit was paid to his memory.[1]

The Bhandári Militia was ordered into town and posted at the several gates as guards, together with half of the peons in the service of the Governor, the gentlemen of Council and all others that are paid by the Company. The detachment which it was yesterday resolved to send under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating embarked this evening about 6 o'clock.

At ¼ before 8 P.M. arrived Captain Alexander McLellan, despatched expressly by the Brigadier-General with advice that the fort of Thána was taken this afternoon about 3 o'clock by storm. The above intelligence arrived just as Lieutenant-Colonel Keating with his party was proceeding on the service intended. They were therefore immediately countermanded, the letter to the Brigadier-General was not forwarded, and the President proposed that they should be sent to reduce the island of Karanja, which the Members of Council agreed to.

Bombay Castle, 29th December 1774.

Agreeably to the Resolution of yesterday evening the detachment under Lieutenant-Colonel Keating proceeded to Karanja early this morning.

At a Consultation held on the 29th December 1774, present:

The Hon'ble William Hornby, Esq., President and Governor.

William Daniel Draper.	Brice Fletcher.
Thos. Mostyn.	William Taylor.

Robert Gordon.

Read and approved our proceedings under the 27th instant, being our last consultation.

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[1] The Bombay Cathedral contains a tablet to the memory of John Watson with the following inscription :—"To the memory of John Watson, Esq., Superintendent of the Marine at the Presidency and Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Force employed in the reduction of Sálsette, in the year 1774. An officer who manifested an unremitted zeal for the interest of the East India Company and the honor of his country at the siege of Thána. He was mortally wounded the 21st of December, 1774, and died in this town the 27th following, in the 52nd year of his age. As a testimony of his distinguished merit and eminent services, the United East India Company erected this monument."

The news of the capture of Thána Fort arriving yesterday evening, the orders, which were prepared in consequence of our Resolutions of the 27th for Brigadier-General Gordon and Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, were not sent, and the party under Lieutenant-Colonel Keating was countermanded and sent to reduce the island of Karanja as minuted above.

The President lays before the Board a letter from the Brigadier-General at Thána, as entered hereafter, to which it is agreed to write him, in reply, that as it will be attended with no use to keep in restraint the prisoners, he may therefore release them all, except the principal persons, such as the Subhedár Amrutráv, the Musumdár, Chitnavis, Potnis, Fadanis, and the late Killedár's family, who, we conclude from the stations they held, will be able to furnish us with a necessary insight into the revenue of the island. They must, therefore, be detained for the present and treated with suitable civility.

It being necessary to provide for the proper government of the island of Salsette as well as for the collection of the revenue, it is resolved, after due consideration, that it shall be entrusted to the charge of a President and Factors subordinate to this place, and that the garrison at Thána be put under the direction of the President and Factors in like manner as the garrisons at other subordinate places.

Mr. John Halsey, on the President's nomination, is appointed President at Thána; and Messrs. Gregory, Page, Patrick, Crawford, Bruce and Edmond Veale Lane, Factors, with Mr. George Shee, Writer, are appointed to the assistance of Thána Factory.

As Mr. Halsey is now at Surat, orders must be sent thither for his repairing to the station to which we have appointed him provisional President, and must accordingly proceed to Thána as expeditiously as he may be able.

The Secretary is ordered to draw out the necessary instructions for the President and Factors to be laid before us for our approbation.

The Brigadier-General must be written to, to give us his sentiments as to the force requisite to garrison Thána and the other posts on Sálsette as well as for the protection of the inhabitants, and to return hither as soon as possible with as large a part of the military force as he can spare. He must also be ordered to use his utmost endeavours to take or destroy the enemy's gallivats, in which service the vessels at Thána will assist him.

In consideration of the eminent good services which the late Mr. John Watson rendered to the Hon'ble Company for many years it is unanimously resolved that a handsome monument be ordered to his memory in the church, with a suitable inscription on it, at the Hon'ble Company's expense.

Letter from Brigadier-General Gordon *to the* President.

Hon'ble Sir,—Immediately on getting possession of the fort I despatched Captain McLellan, that you might have the earliest intelligence of it, and to him I refer you for the particulars of the assault commanded by Colonel Cockburn where both officers and men behaved with the utmost spirit. Upon the enemy evacuating the fort, Captain Farrer with his party made an attempt to get possession of the gallivats, but they were almost swamped, and could not get near them. Anandráv and above 200 people are prisoners, and I am quite at a loss what to do with them. I am therefore to request your Honor and the Board's directions on that head. The slaughter was very great from the resentment of the soldiers from their former sufferiugs. We also got immediate possession of the two forts to the northward where our colours are now flying. You may well suppose the confusion such a scene creates so as

sufficiently to apologize for the incorrectness of this letter. I wish you joy, and am, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir,
Your most humble Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána Fort, 28th December 1774.

Bombay Castle, 29th December 1774.

Signed and despatched per pattamár a letter to the Brigadier-General at Thána. Signified the pleasure we had in hearing of the reduction of Thána. Directed him to reduce Dhárávi and the remaining posts on the island and, if possible, to destroy the enemy's gallivats. He was also to return such part of the force as could be spared and communicate to us his opinion of the garrison necessary to be left for the defence of the Island of Sálsette.

Bombay Castle, Friday, 30th December 1774.

Came to hand per pattamár from Thána a letter from the Brigadier-General, dated this day, in which he replied to our letter of yesterday. Advised that the enemy's gallivats had escaped and proposed to send the prisoners to Bombay instead of releasing them there. He strongly recommended Lieutenant Nugent of the Artillery for a commission as Captain. Acquainted that by the best accounts the enemy's loss must have exceeded six hundred men during the siege and in the assault, and that the inhabitants were returning in great numbers to the town.

Arrived Lieutenant Brickell from Karanja with the news of the surrender of the fort of Karanja and the reduction of that island. The following letter was at the same time received from Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, who commanded that party :—

"*Fort Dornagerah Island*
off Karanja, 30th December 1774.

Hon'ble Sir,—About two hours ago we took possession of this fort. The greatest difficulty we met with was gaining the hill, such a one I never met with. Last night our posts were established within two hundred and fifty yards, and this morning, before they surrendered, within fifty : thus situated and no chance for retreat they gave it up. I permitted them to carry their clothes only. The garrison consisted of one Subhedár, one Havâldár, one Sabnavis and three hundred and six sepoys. The fort is a small square flanked by five towers mounting thirteen guns, small. The wall very low, yet we could not attempt it without ladders, which could not be got up last night, the road being so exceedingly bad. The warehouse contains about one hundred and fifty farahs of bhát and one in the low ground, about thirty khandies. I shall send all the troops to Bombay this afternoon, except about fifty, but shall stay myself until to-morrow to settle matters a little. The country volunteers under Shaik Alli were the first who mounted the heights and behaved very gallantly. We have found about seventeen hundred rupees and some little trifling toys.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your very obliged Servant,
THOMAS KEATING."

To

The GOVERNOR GENERAL and COUNCIL,

Fort William.

Hon'ble Sir and Gentlemen,—Conformably to the Board's address of this date, we shall proceed to communicate to your Honor and Council our motives for determining at this juncture to endeavour at acquiring possession of the island of Sálsette by force of arms, from the Maráthás, the late possessors of it, of which we particularly advised the Hon'ble the Court of Directors in our address per "Thames" several days before the receipt of your letter of the 24th October, wherein we were acquainted of your having taken possession of the Government of Fort William in virtue of the late Act of Parliament; and we flatter ourselves our reasons for this undertaking will appear so satisfactory and convincing to them as well as to you that we shall be fully justified in our proceedings.

In the commands of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors to this Presidency, dated the 31st March 1769, an attested copy of which we now enclose for your information, they are pleased to direct that we should be ever watchful to obtain the island of Sálsette, with the other places therein pointed out, which they acquaint us must be the constant objects we are always to have in view in all our treaties, negotiations and military operations.

Again, the Hon'ble Company in their letter of the 6th April 1772 expressly direct that Mr. Mostyn, one of our members, should be established at Poona for endeavouring to acquire that island, with the other places mentioned in their former commands, and they point out what they permit us to give up as an exchange.

Mr. Mostyn was accordingly fixed as Resident at the Marátha Darbár in the year 1772 during the lifetime of Mádhavráv, and about a year before that Government fell into the confusion it has been in since the assassination of his successor Náráyanráv; but he found no probability of procuring the place desired by the Company, even though he was instructed to offer Broach with its territories (which we had just then acquired from the Nabob) in addition to the terms pointed out by our hon'ble employers.

Some time afterwards the Marátha State fell into that confusion which at present distracts it, when in fact there is no head in that Empire; still we took no step for attaining by force of arms the possession of Sálsette, notwithstanding the opportunity was very favourable, and that we have reason to conclude Sálsette, with the small adjacent isles, was ceded to the Crown by the marriage contract between King Charles the Second and the King of Portugal.

Previous however to the receipt of your letter to the Board communicating the intelligence of your Honor and Council having taken upon you the Government of Bengal, we received advice from Mr. Robert Henshaw (a gentleman in the service then residing on some business of the Company at Goa) that the Portuguese had this season received with their new Captain General (Don Joze Pedro da Camera) a very considerable reinforcement of men and ships from Europe, and that their undoubted designs were immediately to attempt recovering from the Maráthás the possession of Sálsette and Bassein, and the other countries they formerly possessed so far as Daman, called by them the province of the north. An extract of this letter for your information we also enclose.

We could not entertain a doubt from the distracted situation of the affairs of the Maráthás, that the Portuguese with the force they command would certainly gain possession of Sálsette, which is their favourite object, and most probably of the other parts of their former possessions.

Had this event taken place it would not only effectually have prevented us from ever acquiring Sálsette for the Hon'ble Company, but the Portuguese would then again have had it in their power to obstruct our trade by being in possession of the principal passes to the inland country, and to lay whatever imposition they pleased upon it, which in former times on every occasion they were so prone to do, which of course would have been of infinite prejudice to the trade, revenues and interests of the Company in these parts, insomuch that we should in a great measure have been subject to the caprice of the Portuguese.

What, then, remained for us in this emergency? Had we sat inactive spectators of the event we should in our opinion have betrayed the interests of our hon'ble employers; had we written to you for instructions and advice, your sentiments and recommendations most probably must have arrived much too late to have enabled us to prevent the execution of the designs of the Portuguese; and though we had not any account at this time of your being established in your Government of Fort William, and consequently were not restricted by law from pursuing such measures as we judged best for the interests of our hon'ble employers, yet as the matter was in every point of view of an important nature, and we shortly expected to hear you were arrived, we should have been very glad to have submitted to your judgment the direction of the measures necessary to be pursued; but we were obliged either to act at this very juncture or entirely to give up all thoughts of attempting to avert the evils with which we were threatened. We therefore determined, after the most mature consideration, in order to prevent the mischief which must have ensued to the interests of the Hon'ble Company from the Portuguese being in possession of Sálsette, to attempt at obtaining it for our hon'ble employers, and as some offers had been made to the President some months before by the Killedár of Thána, the principal fort on the island, to deliver it to us for a sum of money, the Resident was empowered to close with him on the most moderate terms; but the Killedár now excused himself from proceeding any further in the business, alleging that the Ministry at Poona having obtained intelligence of the designs of the Portuguese had reinforced his garrison, which put it out of his power to deliver it up in the manner he before wished to do. It therefore only remained for us to send such a force as was judged necessary to reduce it, which was accordingly despatched under the command of Brigadier-General Gordon and Mr. Watson, Superintendent of our Marine, and we have the pleasure to acquaint you that Thána, the principal fort on the island, was taken by storm on the 28th instant, after our army had been thirteen days before the place. Versova, another fort in Sálsette, was also taken by a separate force under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Keatinge, and in consequence the whole island is now in our possession.

The island of Karanja also surrendered yesterday, which completes the conquests we had determined to make near this place.

The very day after our forces set out against Thána, part of the Portuguese fleet appeared off this port, with their trade under their convoy bound to Daman, a settlement they still retain to the northward of this place. The Commander of which, so soon as he gained intelligence of our proceedings, delivered a formal protest, by direction, as he said, of the Captain General of Goa, which shows the necessity of the measure we have pursued, and evidently corroborates Mr. Henshaw's account of their intentions. To this protest we delivered a suitable reply, and thus it rests between us.

The revenues of Sálsette amount to about Rs. 3,30,000 per annum on a moderate calculation, and those of Karanja to about Rs. 40,000. We shall fix suitable civil establishments

at each of these places for their government and the collection of their revenues, with a proper military force for their protection.

Before we entered upon these enterprises we judged it very necessary to recall Mr. Mostyn from Poona; yet it is the furthest from our wishes to occasion a rupture between us and the Maráthás, by the steps we have been under the necessity of pursuing. The President, therefore, agreeably to our Resolution, will explain to the ministerial party at Poona the real motives for our proceedings, and they shall be assured that in case they gain the advantage in the present contest by the overthrow of Rághoba, that we shall resign the islands to them so soon as they are in a condition to defend them from the Portuguese, if they cannot be induced to cede them to us, provided, also, that they will give a suitable equivalent or compensation for them; for, your Honor and Council will observe, that we have been impelled to this proceeding at this juncture and without your concurrence more from our duty to prevent these places from falling into the hands of the Portuguese than to retain them in the Company's possession, though this last is much to be wished, as the Hon'ble Company are so desirous of them, and, therefore, when we accommodate matters with the Maráthás, which shall be done as soon as possible, our utmost endeavours shall be used to reconcile them to our keeping them.

The same assurances as will be given to the ministerial party, will also be given to Rághoba should he again obtain the supreme power over the Maráthás, and we hope he may be easily satisfied. But it is necessary now to advise you of the rise and progress of a negotiation at present pending with him, which we shall accordingly here proceed to do.

Near twelve months ago some overtures were made by an agent from Rághoba to Mr. Mostyn, our Resident at Poona, for the assistance of men and money to re-establish his master's affairs; his demands, however, were so large, especially for money which he then much wanted and it being then our fixed resolution by no means to assist him with any, but on the contrary that we should expect a considerable sum from him if we joined him with our forces, as well as many grants of territory for our employers, that the matter was presently dropped.

About four months ago Rághoba, by means of an agent he has residing at Surat, again made proposals, through the Chief of Surat, for the assistance of a body of forces against his enemies, the ministerial party at Poona. As we were of opinion very material advantages might be obtained for our hon'ble employers by affording him some assistance, we directed the Chief to enter upon the negotiation, and pointed out the terms on which we might be induced to assist him with a body of European artillery, infantry and sepoys to the amount of about 2,500 men, which, in consideration of the advantages the Company was to reap from the alliance, we judged we might be able to spare for some few months on this service.

For this assistance we at first demanded that a deposit should be previously made of fifteen, or, if possible, of twenty lákhs of rupees to answer the expense and to ensure the Company from any loss; that the islands adjacent to this place should be ceded to the Hon'ble Company, together with the Marátha share of the revenues of those parganás (districts) near to Surat which formerly belonged to the Governor of that town, all of which the Court of Directors have repeatedly enjoined us to embrace every opportunity in our power to endeavour at obtaining; we also demanded the share collected from the territories of Broach.

We further ordered that it should be stipulated, in case of a treaty taking place, that Rághoba should confirm all the former treaties of this Presidency with the Maráthás; that he should engage never to disturb the tranquillity of the Company's possesions in Bengal or the Karnátak, with some other less material points which related to this place alone.

This agent set out from Surat to communicate our demands to his master, but partly owing to his sickness, and to other difficulties, which attended his journey, it was a considerable time before he returned ; at length, however, his master's proposals were commuuicated to us, which, as your Honor and Council may suppose, at first fell far short of our demand, and, in particular, Rághoba absolutely refused to cede the island of Sálsette or Bassein, and declared it was out of his power to deposit so large a sum as was demanded.

Though we wished to obtain the two places in deference to the opinion of our hon'ble employers, yet as more material advantages might be gained by a cession of territory near Surat, we judged it improper to break off the negotiation on this account, and therefore ordered that it should proceed, and from time to time gave the necessary instructions respecting it.

At length Rághoba's agent agreed on the part of his master to cede to the Company certain parganás near to Surat whose annual revenue amounted to eighteen lákhs and twenty-five thousand rupees in consideratiou of our assisting him with the body of forces we before mentioned ; he also agreed to deposit six lákhs of rupees in money, and secure to the Company the payment of the sum of 1½ lákh of rupees per month, for the expenses of the force with which we were to assist him. The other articles, such as his engaging never to disturb the tranquillity of the Company's possessions in Bengal or the Karnátak, he readily consented to, as well as to confirm the treaties with us, and the other less material points we demanded.

Some matters however remained still to be adjusted relative to the time when the Company were to be put in possession of the places to be ceded to them, which we insisted should be so soon as the treaty was executed, as we were determined to proceed on the most secure grounds and to run no hazards whatever without ample security in hand, agreeably to which we instructed the Chief of Surat, that he might adjust the same on a proper footing, which we had no doubt he would speedily have done ; but the agent was at this time absent from the city collecting the revenue of certain districts near to Surat for his master, to enable him to pay the advance of six lákhs, and he was also taking possession of the parganás that were to be delivered over to the Company, in which business he was seized by a party of the ministerial force and is at present confined by them.

Rághoba had drawn near Surat with his army, which was very considerable, in order that our forces might easily join him, as he expected the treaty would be speedily finished ; but, suspecting some treachery about this time from a part of his troops, he speedily separated from them, with those he could rely on, and for the present is actually retreating towards Delhi. He has however caused the Chief to be assured that he shall speedily return, when he desired this treaty might be concluded.

At the time we first entered in this negotiation we had not heard that the gentlemen who have arrived from England had even left it. We therefore were not at all restricted by law at that time from entering into any engagements we judged beneficial to our hon'ble employers, to whom we have fully explained ourselves on the subject, and whose orders only we were pursuing by the measures we had adopted. Beside if this treaty takes place, we shall obtain such a revenue for the Hon'ble Company as will enable this Presidency to supply itself, and consequently relieve you from the burthen of furnishing us annually with a large sum we shall otherwise indispensbaly require, and therefore doubt not but that it must be approved by the Company and by you gentlemen ; for it is most probable should this opportunity escape us that such another will never offer again, and as it would have endangered the

whole had we put a stop to the treaty (after we received intelligence of your arrival) till your concurrence was obtained; we therefore flatter overselves we shall be fully justified in your opinion for continuing the negotiation, as well as for concluding it, which we purpose to take the first opportunity in our power of doing it.

That Rághoba may take no umbrage at the measures we have pursued regarding Sálsette as advised in the preceding part of this letter, our motives for the same will be explained to him, and the same assurances will be given him in case of his success (and with our assistance we can have but little doubt of his succeeding) as will be given to the ministerial party.

As a considerable part of our marine force is employed at Bassora and in the Persian Gulf, we have at present not a sufficient marine force for the protection of our trade on the Coast of Malabár from the Marátha fleet, which, it is most probable, will attempt making some depredations on it; we shall therefore immediately address a letter to the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's squadron in India who, we conclude, is now at Madras, advising him of the situation of affairs, and desiring, if he cannot repair to this coast with his whole squadron, that he will send two of his ships for the protection of the trade on the coast.

And as our military force is insufficient to garrison our new conquests, and for the other services for which it may be at present wanted, we shall apply to the President and Council at Fort St. George, desiring they will furnish us with two companies of European Infantry and one battalion of sepoys till such time as we may be able to return them by our own levies being completed.

We are, &c.,

Bombay Castle, 31st December 1774.

WILLIAM HORNBY.
DANIEL DRAPER.
THOMAS MOSTYN.
WILLIAM TAYLOR.

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